

THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 131, Vol. VI.

Saturday, July 1, 1865.

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LONDON: 24 TAVISTOCK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

The Council desire to appoint an Assistant to the present Secretary. The salary will be £200 per annum. *Ceteris paribus*, the Council will be inclined to prefer a graduate of the University of London.

Further information may be obtained on application at the Office of the College. Applications and Testimonials will be received on or before Monday, the 17th of July.

CHARLES C. ATKINSON, Secretary.

June 28, 1865.

SWENEY LECTURES ON GEOLOGY

in connexion with the BRITISH MUSEUM.

A COURSE OF TWELVE LECTURES ON CHEMICAL GEOLOGY will be delivered by Dr. PERCY, F.R.S., at the ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES, JERMYN STREET, on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS in each week, commencing on TUESDAY, the 4th JULY, at Two o'clock. Admission free.

TRENHAM REEKS, Registrar.

TAUNTON COLLEGE SCHOOL.—Head

Master: Rev. W. TUCKWELL, M.A., late Fellow of New College, Oxford; Second Master: J. H. MERRIOTT, Esq., B.A., late Scholar of Merton College, Oxford. The Premises have lately been enlarged, and fresh Class-rooms added, with increased accommodation for Boarders. A Museum and Laboratory have been fitted up, and a Botanical Garden laid out, for the teaching of Physical Science, which is extended to II the School. For Particulars, address the Head Master.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.—The

COMMITTEE for PROMOTING the ELECTION of Mr. JOHN STUART MILL sit daily at 9a, Bridge Street, Westminster, S.W., where all communications may be made.

Subscriptions to defray Mr. Mill's return free of expense are received at the Committee Room, or by the undersigned:—

C. WESTERTON, Chairman, Knightsbridge.
J. S. STORR, Treasurer, 26 King Street, Covent Garden.
JAMES BEAL, Hon. Sec., 209 Piccadilly, W.

THOMAS HUGHES for LAMBETH.—

GENERAL COMMITTEE meet daily at the Rifle Tavern, near The Horns, Kennington Park.

JOHN RUSKIN, M.A., Chairman.
W. R. SELWAY, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.
JOSIAH J. MERRUMAN, Agent.

WEST KENT ELECTION.—In conse-

quence of the death of Sir John Lubbock, Bart., Mr. Lubbock, the Liberal Candidate for West Kent, will be unable to attend any public engagements for which he has been advertised.

GEORGE WARDE NORMAN, Chairman.
WILLIAM HALL, Secretary.

London Committee Rooms, 79 Basinghall Street, E.C.

ROYAL ACADEMY of ARTS.—The EXHIBITION of the ROYAL ACADEMY is OPEN. In the Day, from Eight till Seven; Admission, One Shilling; Catalogue, One Shilling. In the Evening, from Half-past Seven till Half-past Ten; Admission, Sixpence; Catalogue, Sixpence.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Secretary.

DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1865.

UNDER THE SPECIAL PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN EVERY WEEK DAY.
ADMISSION, ONE SHILLING.

ON SATURDAYS, TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS.

Return Tickets, available for One Month, are issued between London and the principal Railway Stations in England and Scotland and Dublin, at an abatement of fifteen per cent. below the ordinary Return Ticket Rate, the holder being entitled to purchase at the same time at the Railway Station a Ticket giving him admission six times to the Exhibition for 4s. 6d., being twenty-five per cent. under the ordinary rate.

Excursion Trains will be organized to run fortnightly, or oftener if necessary, at very moderate fares, not exceeding 21s., from London to Dublin and back, and from other places in like proportion. The Ticket will be good for a fortnight, and at the same time the holder will be entitled to obtain at the same railway station, for one Shilling, a Ticket giving him admission twice to the Exhibition.

On the Irish Railways, also, Excursion Tickets will be issued at greatly reduced fares, affording unusual facilities for visiting the celebrated scenery of the country.

HENRY PARKINSON, Sec. and Comptroller.

June 21.

MUSICAL UNION.—GRAND AND LAST

MATINEE.—TUESDAY, JULY 4.—Septet E flat (entire), Beethoven; Berceuse and Polonaise, Piano-forte, Lubeck. Songs, Schubert and Mendelssohn. Vocalist, Herr Hauser; scherzo and trio from quintet in G, Spohr; God preserve the Emperor, from quartet Haydn; Swedish song, Harmonious Blacksmith (original song), and Ave Maria (Gounod), with violoncello obbligato, Piatelli. Vocalist, Mlle. Enequist. Grand Septet in D minor, Hummel. Piano solos, Impromptu Lubeck. Executants: Strauss, Piatelli, *Ries, *Webb, *Hann, *Pratten, *Barret, *Lazarus, *Teutichins, *Harper, and *Howell (*from Costa's band). Pianist, Herr Lubeck (expressly for this matinee). Tickets, Half a Guinea each, to be had of Cramer and Co., Chappell and Co., Ollivier and Co., Ashdown and Parry, and Austin, at St. James's Hall. Members can pay for visitors at the Hall. Doors will open at half-past Two. Concert to begin at Three. No free admissions will be given for this Matinee.

18 Hanover Square. JOHN ELLA, Director.
A copy of the "Harmonious Blacksmith," its history, the original French melody and words, will be presented to every visitor to this matinee.

WORKING MEN'S CLUB and INSTI-

TUTE UNION.—The ANNUAL MEETING will be held on MONDAY, JULY 3, at Three p.m., in the LOWER HALL, EXETER HALL. The Right Hon. LORD BROUGHAM in the Chair. Admission FREE. Members and Friends are requested to attend.

150 Strand. HENRY SOLLY, Secretary.

SPEKE MEMORIAL FUND.—A MEET-

ING OF THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THIS FUND will be held on TUESDAY, the 4th JULY, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Royal Geographical Society, 15 Whitehall Place, S.W., to decide upon the form of the Monument which is to be erected in honour of the great African explorer.

A GENTLEMAN acquainted with several

Languages, who has worked for some time in a Chemical Laboratory, and is the Author of a work on Natural History, is desirous of procuring a SITUATION as CURATOR, LIBRARIAN, or otherwise.

Address, W. K., care of Dr. Wood, 28 Harley Street, Cavendish Square, W.

ACCIDENTS TO LIFE OR LIMB,

IN THE FIELD, THE STREETS, OR AT HOME,

Provided for by a Policy of the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY
64 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

COMPENSATION HAS BEEN PAID

FOR 10,000 CLAIMS.

£1,000 IN CASE OF DEATH,

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For Particulars apply to the Clerks at the Railway Stations, to the Local Agents, or at the Offices, 64 CORNHILL, and 10 REGENT STREET.

W. J. VIAN, Secretary.

UNIVERSAL LIFE ASSURANCE

SOCIETY.

(Established 1834.)

1 KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

At the THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING a reduction of 50 per cent. or one-half, upon the Premiums for the current year was declared upon all participating Policies six years in force, as shown in the following examples:—

Age in Policy.	Sum Assured on Lives in England.	Original Premium.	Reduced Premium for next Year.
20	£1,000	£19 6 8	£9 13 4
30	1,000	24 8 4	12 4 2
40	1,000	31 10 0	15 15 0

Age in Policy.	Assured on Lives in India.	Original Premium.	Reduced Premium next Year.	Further Reduced Premium if in Europe.
20	£1,000	£42 0 0	£21 0 0	£9 13 4
30	1,000	48 0 0	24 0 0	12 4 2
40	1,000	59 0 0	29 10 0	15 15 0

The above will show the great advantages attaching to Policies effected with this Society, the annual reduction of Premium having been nearly 50 per cent. per annum at twenty-six divisions of profit. Large Reversionary Bonuses were also added to Policies, the holders of which preferred increasing the sums assured to decreasing their Premiums.

Premiums and Conditions highly favourable to Assurers proceeding to India. The Society has Branch Offices at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, where Policies may be taken out on lives residing in any part of India.

FREDK. HENDRIKS,

Actuary and Secretary.

Messrs. Grindlay & Co., 55 Parliament Street, S.W., have been appointed Agents to this Society for the West End of London.

THE GUARDIAN FIRE AND LIFE

ASSURANCE COMPANY. Established 1821.

No. 11 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

REDUCTION OF FIRE INSURANCE DUTY.

Subscribed Capital Two Millions.

Total Invested Funds upwards of £2,750,000.

Total Income upwards of £315,000.

Notice is hereby given that FIRE POLICIES which expire at Midsummer, must be renewed within Fifteen Days at this Office, or with the Company's Agents throughout the Kingdom, otherwise they become void.

All Insurances now have the benefit of the Reduced Duty of 1s. 6d. per Cent.

For Prospectus and other information apply to the Company's Agents, or to

T. TALLEMACH, Secretary.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE

COMPANY.

1 Old Broad Street, and 16 and 17 Pall Mall, London.

Established 1803.

Subscribed and Invested Capital and Reserved Fund, £1,900,000.

REDUCTION OF DUTY.

Insurances due at Midsummer should be renewed within fifteen days thereafter (last day July 8), or the same will become void.

The Government having now decided to make the Duty uniform, and to reduce it on every description of Property to 1s. 6d. per cent. per annum from 25th June, all Policies will be entitled to a reduction of one-half of the duty hitherto paid.

ANDREW BADEN, Superintendent.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING

COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

Every description of Banking Business conducted with South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and also by Agency with New Zealand, upon current terms with the respective Colonies.

WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.

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GENERAL ELECTIONS.—THE REV.

ALEX. J. D. DORSEY, B.D., English Lecturer at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and Lecturer in Public Reading at King's College, London, gives LESSONS in PUBLIC SPEAKING at 25 Brunswick Gardens, W.

PRIVATE TUTOR.—A Clergyman, M.A.

of Cambridge, residing near Richmond, experienced in Tuition, and possessing highly satisfactory Testimonials, is desirous of meeting with a Pupil.—Address, Beta, HISCOPES & Son's Library, Richmond, Surrey.

THE READER

1 JULY, 1865.

GUN COTTON MANUFACTORY. GREAT EASTERN CHEMICAL WORKS, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK. MESSRS. THOMAS, PRENTICE, & CO.

THIS MANUFACTORY has been established for the purpose of preparing Gun Cotton, according to the Austrian process, and was opened on the 26th of January last, under the inspection of Baron LENK. Messrs. THOMAS, PRENTICE, & Co. are now able to supply Gun Cotton in its most improved form, either for the purposes of Engineering and Mining, or for Military and Submarine explosion and for the service of Artillery as a substitute for gunpowder.

The advantages of Baron LENK's Gun Cotton are the following:—

FOR PURPOSES OF ARTILLERY.

1. The same initial velocity of the projectile can be obtained by a charge of Gun Cotton one-fourth of the weight of gunpowder.
2. No smoke from the explosion.
3. Does not foul the gun.
4. Does not heat the gun to the injurious degree of gunpowder.
5. The same velocity to the projectile with much smaller recoil of the gun.
6. Will produce the same initial velocity of projectile with a shorter length of barrel.
7. In projectiles of the nature of explosive shells, Gun Cotton has the advantage of breaking the shell more equally into much more numerous pieces than gunpowder.
8. When used in shells instead of gunpowder, one-third of the weight of the latter produces double the explosive force.

FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND MINING.

9. A charge of Gun Cotton of given size exerts double the explosive force of gunpowder.
10. It may be so used as, in its explosion, to reduce the rock to much smaller pieces than gunpowder, and so facilitate its removal.
11. Producing no smoke, the work can proceed much more rapidly, and with less injury to health.
12. In working coal mines, bringing down much larger quantities with a given charge, and absence of smoke, enable a much greater quantity of work to be done in a given time at a given cost.
13. The weight of Gun Cotton required to produce a given effect in mining is only one-sixth part of the weight of gunpowder.
14. In blasting rock under water, the wider range and greater force of a given charge cheapen considerably the cost of submarine work.
15. The peculiar local action of Gun Cotton enables the engineer to destroy and remove submarine stones and rocks without the preliminary delay and expense of boring chambers for the charge.

FOR MILITARY ENGINEERING.

16. The weight of Gun Cotton is only one-sixth that of gunpowder.
17. Its peculiar localised action enables the engineer to destroy bridges and palisades, and to remove every kind of obstacle with great facility.
18. For submarine explosion, either in attack or defence, it has the advantage of a much wider range of destructive power than gunpowder.
19. For the same purpose. From its lightness it has the advantage of keeping afloat the water-tight case in which it is contained, while gunpowder sinks it to the bottom.

FOR NAVAL WARFARE.

20. Where guns are close together, as in the batteries of ships and casemated forts, the absence of smoke removes the great evil of the firing of one gun impeding the aim of the next, and thus Gun Cotton facilitates rapid firing.
21. Between decks, also, the absence of smoke allows continuous rapid firing to be maintained. The absence of fouling and of heating is equally advantageous for naval as for military artillery.

GENERAL ADVANTAGES.

22. Time, damp, and exposure do not alter the qualities of the patent Gun Cotton.
23. It can be transported through fire without danger, simply by being wetted, and when dried in the open air it becomes as good as before.
24. It is much stronger than gunpowder, owing to its being manufactured in the shape of rope or yarn.
25. The Patent Gun Cotton has the peculiarity of being entirely free from the danger of spontaneous combustion, and is constant and unalterable in its nature.

MESSRS. THOMAS, PRENTICE, & CO

are now in a position to contract with the owners of mines, engineers, contractors, and Governments, for Gun Cotton prepared in the various forms required for their use. Mining charges will be supplied in the rope form according to the diameter of bore required, and Gun Cotton match-line will be supplied with it. Instructions as to the method of using it in mines will also be supplied.

They are also prepared to manufacture the Gun Cotton, and deliver it in the form of gun cartridges, adapted to every description of ammunition.

Artillerists who prefer to manufacture their own cartridges may make special arrangements with the patentee through Messrs. PRENTICE & Co.

Stowmarket, March 10, 1864.

THE FURNISHING OF BEDROOMS.

HEAL & SON, of TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, have greatly enlarged their Premises, for the purpose of making a more complete arrangement of their Stock.

They have now Ten separate Rooms, each completely furnished with a different Suite of Bedroom Furniture. These are, irrespective of their general Stock, displayed in Six Galleries, and Two large ground-floor Warehouses, the whole forming, they believe, the most complete Stock of Bedroom Furniture in the Kingdom.

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and LAMPS.—**WILLIAM S. BURTON** invites inspection of his Stock of these, displayed in two large Show Rooms. Each article is of guaranteed quality, and some are objects of pure Vertu, the productions of the first manufacturers of Paris, from whom **WILLIAM S. BURTON** imports them direct.

Clocks, from 7s. 6d. to £45.
Candelabra, from 13s. 6d. to £16 10 per pair
Bronzes, from 18s. to £16 16s.
Lamps, moderate, from 6s. to £9.
Pure Colza Oil 4s. per gallon.

WILLIAM S. BURTON, GENERAL
FURNISHING IRONMONGER, by appointment to
H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, sends a CATALOGUE gratis and post paid. It contains upwards of 600 illustrations of his illimitable stock of Sterling Silver and Electro Plate, Nickel Silver and Britannia Metal Goods, Dish Covers, Hot-water Dishes, Stoves, Fenders, Marble Chimney-pieces, Kitchen Ranges, Lamps, Gaseliers, Tea Trays, Urns and Kettles, Clocks, Table Cutlery, Baths, Toilet Ware, Turnery, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding, Bed-room Cabinet Furniture, &c., with Lists of Prices and Plans of the Twenty Large Show Rooms, at 39 Oxford Street, W.; 1 La 2 3 and 4 Newman Street 4 5 and 6 Perry's Place; and 1 Newman Yard, London.

SAUCE.—LEA & PERRINS' WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

This Delicious Condiment, pronounced by Connoisseurs

'THE ONLY GOOD SAUCE.'

Is prepared solely by LEA & PERRINS.

The Public are respectfully cautioned against worthless imitations, and should see that LEA & PERRINS' Names are on Wrapper, Label, Bottle, and Stopper.

ASK FOR LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE.

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CAUTION.—COCKS' CELEBRATED
READING SAUCE, for Fish, Game, Steaks, Soups, Gravies, Hot and Cold Meats, and unrivalled for general use, is sold by all respectable Dealers in Sauces. It is manufactured only by the Executors of the Sole Proprietor, Original Sauce Warehouse.

ALL OTHERS ARE SPURIOUS IMITATIONS.

DELEIVINGNE, Importer of Foreign Wines,
Brandy, and Liqueurs, 51, Oxford Street, W.

Pale, dry, dinner Sherries, soft and delicate, 24s., 30s., 36s., and 42s. a doz.

Port, 36s., 42s., 48s., 60s., doz.

Claret-Médoc, St. Emilion, St. Estèphe, St. Julien, 18s., 21s., 24s., 30s., doz.

Champagne, 36s., 42s., 48s., doz.

Champagne, dry and full flavoured, 54s., 60s., 72s., doz.

High class Wines of every description, and of the most celebrated Vintages.

CLARET, ST. EMILION, a Good Sound
Wine with Body and Flavour, 20s. Dozen.

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SOFT, DELICATE, and WHITE SKINS,
with a delightful and lasting fragrance, by using the celebrated UNITED SERVICE SOAP TABLETS, 4d. and 6d. each, manufactured by

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CARSONS' ORIGINAL ANTI-CORROSION PAINT. Walter Carson and Sons beg respectfully to notify that they have removed their principal Office to their Warehouse in LA BELLE SAUVAGE YARD, Ludgate Hill, E.C., and have discontinued their West End Office, 31 St. James's Street, S.W. March 1st, 1865. 9 Great Winchester Street, E.C.

CARSONS' ANTI-CORROSION PAINT,
specially manufactured for out-door work, is the best and cheapest. All colours. Is simple in application, so that any person can use it. Full instructions given. Estd. 70 years.

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used by nearly all the eminent Horticulturists, the Nobility and Gentry, for their Gardens.

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for CONSERVATORIES.

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for HOT-HOUSES.

CARSONS' ANTI-CORROSION PAINT
will keep for years in a dry place. All orders to be sent direct to **WALTER CARSON and SONS,**

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Three doors east of Railway Viaduct.

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PRIZE MEDAL AWARDED TO G. N. & SONS, FOR BEEHIVES AND HONEY, AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION OF 1855.

NEIGHBOUR'S IMPROVED COTTAGE
BEEHIVE, as originally introduced by **GEORGE NEIGHBOUR & SONS,** with all the recent improvements, three glasses, and thermometer, price 35s., securely packed.

This unique Hive has met with universal commendation, and may be worked with safety, humanity, and profit, by the most timid; its arrangements are so perfect that the Honey may be taken at any time of the gathering season, without at all injuring the Bees.

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Their newly-arranged Catalogue of other improved Hives, with Drawings and Prices, sent on receipt of Two Stamps.

OIL of HORSE CHESTNUTS (applied externally). This Oil, at first used only for Gout, is now proved to be applicable in all cases of Chronic and painful diseases, 'curing Gout, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Lumbago, Stiff Joints, Carbuncles, Bolls, Swellings, &c. In bottles, with directions, at 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d., from the principal Chemists, or by post on receipt of stamps. Genuine only of **REW and CO.,** Operative Chemists, 282 Regent Street, W.

CAUTION.—CHLORODYNE.—IN
CHANCERY. Vice-Chancellor Sir W. P. Wood stated that Dr. Browne was undoubtedly the inventor—eminent hospital physicians of London stated that Dr. J. Collis Browne was the discoverer—of Chlorodyne: that they prescribe it largely, and mean no other than Dr. Browne's.—See Times, July 13, 1864. The public, therefore, are cautioned against using any other than Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE. It is affirmed by overwhelming medical testimonials to be the most efficacious medicine for

CONSUMPTION, COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, SPASMS, RHEUMATISM, &c.

Earl Russell has graciously favoured J. T. Davenport with the following:—'Extract of a dispatch from Mr. Webb, H.B.M.'s Consul at Manila, dated Sept. 17, 1864:—The remedy most efficacious in its effects (in Epidemic Cholera) has been found to be Chlorodyne, and with a small quantity given to me by Dr. Burke I have saved several lives.'

No home should be without it. Sold in bottles, 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. J. T. DAVENPORT, 33, Great Russell Street, London, W.C., sole manufacturer. Observe particularly, none genuine without the words 'Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne' on the Government stamp.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH.
Messrs. WOTHERSPOON & Co. have been appointed Starch Purveyors to H.R.H. the PRINCESS OF WALES. This Starch is used in the ROYAL LAUNDRY, and was awarded a PRIZE MEDAL 1862. Sold by all Grocers, Chandlers, &c.

WOTHERSPOON & CO., Glasgow and London.

THE READER.

1 JULY, 1865.

Sales by Auction.

THE FIRE AT MESSRS.

SOTHEY, WILKINSON, & HODGE'S
Auction Rooms, No. 13 Wellington Street, Strand, has destroyed the valuable LIBRARIES announced for Sale in THE READER of the 24th ult.

Messrs. SOTHEY, WILKINSON, & HODGE will, for the present, carry on their business at their FINE ART GALLERY, adjoining the Lyceum Theatre, in Wellington Street.

VALUABLE MINERALS AND FOSSILS.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38 King Street, Covent Garden, on FRIDAY, JULY 7th, at Half-past Twelve precisely, a valuable collection of Minerals, including some splendid Specimens of Light Red Arsenical Silvers, Antimonial Silvers, Chloride of Coppers, &c. Also some choice Fossils, Handsome Cabinet, &c.

On view the day prior and morning of Sale, and Catalogues had.

EGGS AND BIRD SKINS.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38 King Street, Covent Garden, on TUESDAY, JULY 11, at Half-past Twelve precisely, FOUR FINE EXAMPLES OF THE EGG OF THE GREAT AUK, a Collection of Eggs and Bird Skins obtained by the Rev. H. B. Tristram last year in the Holy Land, a small Collection of Eggs, just received from Mr. H. Wheelwright in Sweden, Authentic Eggs from Turkey, Canada, &c.

On view the day prior and morning of Sale, and Catalogues had.

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SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1865.

PATENTS AND MONOPOLIES.

MANY of us enter this world on a Patent bed. If we are "brought up by hand," it is on Patent food administered through a Patent feeding-bottle. Those who, when ill, imprudently attempt to cure themselves by taking a so-called "Patent" medicine, are almost certain to die, and are likely, if rich enough, to be enclosed in a Patent coffin, and transported to their last and least unhappy home in a Patent hearse. Thus, with all the incidents of life and of death, articles or processes for which Her Majesty has granted her Letters Patent, are intimately associated. There is but one striking exception. No Patent has yet been obtained for an improvement on the old-fashioned plan according to which the earth is replenished. Before long, this matter will doubtless attract the attention of Patentees ambitious of showing how to do by artificial means what is assuredly nobler, as well as more difficult, than to cause two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before.

There can be no question, then, as to the universality of the interest attaching to Patents. Hardly any man, woman, or child, is unaffected by them. Yet among the multitude whom they concern, there are but few who think seriously about the expediency of granting or withholding them; and, among those who have made up their minds on the subject, there are very great differences of opinion.

It is held by the opponents of Patents that to grant them at all is both a mistake and an injury; a mistake in principle, and an injury to trade. Only a few days ago, we read in *The Times* that the fact of a certain French firm having been able to supply locomotives to an English Railway Company at a lower price than any firm in this country, was chiefly owing to the operation of our Patent laws. It was not alleged that French or Belgian manufacturers were freed from the operation of such laws; but it was maintained that they did not suffer nearly so much from them as all English firms do. The short and conclusive answer to this is, that in France to every million of the population, there are at present one hundred and sixty-two Patents in force; in Belgium three hundred and twelve, and in England one hundred. As the number of manufacturers is much less in those countries than in this, the restrictive action of Patents must be infinitely greater there, than here. Hence, Patents cannot hamper the action of English firms exclusively. Even if they did have that effect, it would not follow that to grant them was an error. This proposition has, however, been gravely advanced in an elaborate article in the current number of *The Edinburgh Review*. Moreover, it is stated that Copyright is as defensible a privilege, as Patent rights are oppressive monopolies. We consider the distinction drawn between them to be wholly illusory. For the present, however, we shall confine ourselves to an examination of the arguments, contained in that article, against granting Letters Patent for inventions.

These arguments are based on two theories; first, that Patents, being monopolies, are injurious; second, that they are hindrances to free competition. We admit

that monopolies, properly so called, "are odious." We desire that every enactment tending towards protection, as opposed to freedom of trade, should be swept away. We maintain, however, that modern Patents differ so essentially from the old Monopolies, as to be necessary in order to insure unrestricted competition.

The article in *The Edinburgh* begins by referring to the effect produced when the list of Monopolies granted by Queen Elizabeth was read over in the House of Commons. A member exclaimed, with justifiable indignation, that bread would be soon included among the number of the things for which monopolies were accorded. We are then told by the writer in *The Edinburgh* that "if the list of such monopolies were now read over in the House, it would be found that the case of which the mere imagination once provoked such wrath in Parliament has been realized—bread is among their number, and a man shall hardly mix flour and water and bake them into bread in any manner which has not been granted by the Crown to the exclusive use of some patentee." If this statement were wholly accurate, then it would be impossible for any one to bake bread without a licence. Is this a fact?

Taking the illustration thus furnished, let us endeavour to dispel the confusion of ideas which the writer seems to labour under, as to the difference between a monopoly such as that granted by Queen Elizabeth, and a Patent for making bread granted by Queen Victoria. Her Majesty has empowered Dr. Daughlish to have the sole right of making aerated bread for a fixed period, in consideration of his having paid certain fees and disclosed the nature of his invention. Having paid the fees and obtained the protection, he is entitled to sue anyone who shall infringe his Patent. He cannot interfere with any baker who chooses to bake bread in a manner different from his own. He may charge what he pleases for his loaves; but no one is obliged to buy or eat them. In fact, his whole power is limited to bringing a new sort of bread into the market, and persuading consumers to purchase it in preference to all other sorts. In enabling Dr. Daughlish to do this, Queen Victoria does not, we think, render him any unfair assistance.

Queen Elizabeth would have acted otherwise. She would have bestowed upon him the "Monopoly" of making bread, and have empowered him to hinder anyone from interfering with his exclusive right. Dr. Daughlish would then have had nothing to fear from competition. Whether his bread were good or bad, the public would have been compelled by necessity either to purchase it at his own price, or else to dispense with the "staff of life" altogether. Moreover, no family would dare to make bread for home consumption, because to do so would be to interfere with his monopoly. The result would be that under Queen Elizabeth, Dr. Daughlish would rapidly accumulate wealth, to the detriment of his fellow men, whereas under Queen Victoria he cannot acquire any money without benefiting his fellows. The modern Patent means the power to compete; the ancient Monopoly the power to restrain. To characterize both Patents and Monopolies, as alike oppressive, is to assert that which cannot be substantiated.

An inventor who trusts in the honour of his fellows is like a banker who refuses to lock up his safe. To discover a process, and apply it in practice, involves not mental labour only, but an expenditure of money also. For instance, a man invents a steel pen which will write, if not spell better than any other ever made. This would be a useful discovery; and it would be the means of largely remunerating him who had the good fortune to make it. Let us suppose that he sets to work to produce the improved pens without first having acquired the privilege of making them during a period of fourteen years. He would fail frequently before attaining the desired result. Much of his time and means would have to be bestowed on erecting the proper machinery and making his invention generally known. If it answered perfectly, the demand for the new pens would be great. Rival pen-makers would be unable to find customers for their inferior articles. Would they placidly watch the rising reputation of the clever inventor? We should regard them as very bad men of business if they did. They would be obliged either to produce a better pen, or else to manufacture that which had proved to be so good, and had become so popular. Starting with the knowledge imparted to them by the ingenious inventor, and thus released from the necessity of wasting their time and energies in disheartening failures, they would be able to erect machinery at a less cost than he had incurred, and, consequently, to sell pens at a lower price, and yet at a greater profit than he could sell them. The inventor would starve, and the pirate would grow rich. Hence, in these days, without Patent Laws there could be no competition. Competition implies equality. It is a monopoly of the most obnoxious kind, if one man have the opportunity of snatching from another the fruit of his toil and the result of his outlay, if one may reap where another has sown. A Patent Law prevents this.

If this inventor were working under the protection of a Patent, he would have the same difficulties to overcome as before. But he would be freed from the apprehension of losing all return for his outlay. Whilst his Patent continued in force, he would have the sole right of manufacturing a particular article, a right which would be useless unless he could manufacture that article so cheaply as to compete with all others of a similar kind. Thus, his Patent privilege would merely give him the opportunity of competing on equal terms with everyone else.

These are the leading principles according to which the bestowal of Patents can be defended. But the provisions of our Patent Laws cannot be supported on these or any other grounds. Our Laws, as now framed, give the greatest possible amount of annoyance to the public with the least possible protection to the Patentee. Because a Law is bad, it does not follow that its principle is erroneous or obnoxious, any more than it follows that, because a man is a fool or a lunatic, therefore he ought to be tortured or slain.

So long as inventors can obtain Patents, the public gains quite as much as inventors can do. By taking out a Patent, they bind themselves to disclose the nature of their invention, and also to make it over to the public after the lapse of a few years. If

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they cannot receive legal protection, they make no disclosure, because unless they work in secret, the fruit of their labours will be filched from them. In the one case, it is their interest to strive to furnish the public with the most perfect machine, process, or article they can produce. In the other, their energies must be chiefly expended in concealing from the public their methods of working, or the construction of their improved machinery. The absence of a Patent Law is a premium on secrecy.

We are disinclined to cite the example of any other country in support of the course which should be pursued in our own. But in the present case, we must make an exception in favour of the United States. There, if anywhere, Patent Laws would not be maintained for a day, if they proved so detrimental to trade as some would have us believe. Now, the Americans have afforded us as much reason for concluding that they desire the dissolution of the Union, as for maintaining that they are dissatisfied with the operation of their Patent Laws. In his report for last year, the Commissioner of Patents assures Congress, with reference to what had been said in England against Patents, "that to most inventors in this country [America] it would seem not less preposterous to question the right of property, or the fundamental laws of morality, than to inquire into the right and policy of granting Patents for inventions."

The cases of individual hardship which are constantly urged as reasons for abolishing Patents, have nearly always arisen from the defectiveness of our Patent Laws, and the inefficiency of the tribunals which decide questions relating to Patents. Thus, we should support any well-considered plan of reform of those laws as heartily as we should oppose their injudicious repeal. Bad though they are, yet they do less harm than would ensue were there no law in operation. To abolish those Laws, in place of amending them, would be at once unwise and indefensible.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE ARABS AT HOME.

Narrative of a Year's Journey through Central and Eastern Arabia. By William Gifford Palgrave. 2 Vols. (Macmillan & Co.)

IT is long since we have had so excellent a book of travel as Mr. Palgrave's. His rare accomplishments especially fitted him for the arduous enterprise, while the novelty of the scenes he brings before his readers, makes his book as amusing as a tale from the "Arabian Nights." In June, 1862, he left Máan, having crossed the Ghour, south of Petra, and reached Kateef, on the Persian Gulf, in the following February. During these months he had traversed and fully studied the Djowf, Shomer, and the Nejed, names that up to the publication of his travels conveyed but vague notions to most European ears. They constitute in a gradually ascending scale the great central plateau of Arabia, culminating, as the name denotes, in Nejed, the stronghold of Wahhabee power. The fanaticism and jealousy of these Mohammedan puritans have caused their capital to be likened by their neighbours to the lion's cave, which has many footmarks leading towards, but none away from it. It was no light enterprise to beard these lions in their den, and, setting their suspicions at defiance, to study their history, factions, and government on the spot. It is, however, very manifest from Mr. Palgrave's pages, that only by incurring such risk could any reliable results

be arrived at. A long familiarity with their language and learning encouraged him to make the attempt. Some disguise was not the less indispensable, for had his European origin been discovered, he would never have left the place alive.

With a Syrian attendant from Zaleh, he gave himself out as a physician, not concealing his Christianity, but accommodating himself in every other particular to the native customs and habits. A more than ordinary amount of that familiarity with medical treatment, which so many of our non-professional countrymen acquire in the East, was abundantly sufficient to enable him to arrive at a great reputation among Arabs, whose curative expedients are of the most primitive and often absurd character. He consequently, both at Hayel, the capital of Shomer, and at Riad, that of the Nejed, soon came in contact with the chief personages of the land, and thus had the fullest opportunity of studying the history and present politics of the country. A better plan could not have been adopted, but we cannot quite agree with the tone of his remarks on those who have chosen the character of a Dervish (or as he more properly speaks it "Darweesh") for the same purpose:—

Passing oneself off for a wandering Darweesh, as some European explorers have attempted to do in the East, is, for more reasons than one, a very bad plan. It is unnecessary to dilate on that moral aspect of the proceeding which will always first strike unsophisticated minds. To feign a religion which the adventurer himself does not believe; to perform with scrupulous exactitude, as of the highest and holiest import, practices which he inwardly ridicules, and which he intends on his return to hold up to the ridicule of others; to turn, for weeks and months together, the most sacred and awful bearings of man towards his Creator into a deliberate and truthless mummery—not to mention any other and yet darker touches—all this seems hardly compatible with the character of a European gentleman, let alone that of a Christian. The Darweeshes of the East are nowise isolated individuals. Every school, every brotherhood, has its own distinctive teaching and technicalities, its peculiar practices and observances, its several saints and doctors, great men and founders. A Franciscan or a Carthusian, a Dominican or a Benedictine, are not members of more thoroughly organized bodies, nor more minutely discriminated from each other, than are the disciples of each saint or founder in this Oriental reproduction of Christian asceticism. Now let us imagine to ourselves a Protestant traveller from Edinburgh or Stockholm, desirous, from whatever motive, to traverse Italy or Spain unrecognized, and assuming the guise of a Benedictine or Franciscan, in order better to insure his *incognito* in Catholic countries. It is evident the result would simply be to entangle himself in superfluous difficulties, and double or treble the chances of his own detection. And even should the ordinary crowd, deceived by his garb and tonsure, take him now and then for what he acted, what would be his condition on falling in with any of his pretended order? Above all, should any shrewd monk or friar, suspecting, as he certainly would, the stranger brother's authenticity, ply him with a few of those family questions and allusive phrases which constitute so to speak the freemasonry of every close corporation! Much better would our imaginary North-countryman have gone on his way unfrocked and ungirdled, mixed with the every-day multitude, on a safer because a simpler line of personation.

It is impossible to dispute the good sense of these observations, or to avoid acknowledging the greater prudence of the course he adopted; but where an unquestionable deception has to be practised, it seems to us that the distinction between Doctor and Darweesh will hardly support the gravity of his moral animadversions. He certainly gives himself the full licence which he refuses to the man who thus accommodated himself to the religious observances of the country, for there is no form of vituperation to which he does not subject the Wahhabees and their reform of the Mohammedan religion. He will not allow that it bears any resemblance whatever to the Protestant Reformation in Europe, though he is forced to illustrate their manners and ways of thinking by constant

references to the Rump Parliament, the reign of the saints, the Council of Dort, and whatever else was most uncompromising in that revolution. This remarkable movement commenced in Islam about 100 years since, and spread from the Nejed, until the Wahhabee princes had subjected the whole of Central Arabia. Mr. Palgrave summarizes their doctrines in the following extracts among others:—

The keystone, the master thought, the parent idea—of which all the rest is but the necessary and inevitable deduction—is contained in the phrase far oftener repeated than understood, "La ilāh illā Allāh"—there is no God but God; a literal translation, but much too narrow for the Arab formula, and quite inadequate to render its true force in an Arab mouth or mind. "There is no God but God" are words simply tantamount in English to the negation of any deity save one alone; and thus much they certainly mean in Arabic, but they imply much more also. Their full sense is not only to deny absolutely and unreservedly all plurality, whether of nature or person, in the Supreme Being, not only to establish the unity of the unbegotten and unbegot in all its simple and uncommunicable Oneness, but besides this the words in Arabic, and among Arabs, imply that this one Supreme Being is also the only agent, the only force, the only act existing throughout the universe; and leave to all things else, matter or spirit, instinct or intelligence, physical or moral, nothing but pure, unconditional passiveness, alike in movement or quiescence, in action or in capacity. The sole power, the sole motor, movement, energy, and deed, is God; the rest is downright *inertia* and mere instrumentality, from the highest archangel down to the simplest atom of creation. Hence, in the one sentence "La ilāh illā Allāh" is summed up a system which, for want of a better name, I may be permitted to call the Pantheism of force or of act, thus exclusively assigned to God, who absorbs it all, exercises it all, and to whom alone it can be ascribed; whether for preserving or for destroying, for relative evil or for equally relative good. I say relative, because it is clear that in such a theology no place is left for absolute good or evil, reason or extravagance; all is abridged in the autocratical will of the one great agent: *Sic volo, sic jubeo, stet pro ratione voluntas*; or more significantly still in Arabic, "Kemā yesha'o," as He wills it—to quote the constantly-recurring expression of the Coran. . . . One might at first sight think that this tremendous autocrat, this uncontrolled and unsympathizing power, would be far above anything like passions, desires, or inclinations. Yet such is not the case, for he has with respect to his creatures one main feeling and source of action—namely, jealousy of them, lest they should perchance attribute to themselves something of what is his alone, and thus encroach on his all-engrossing kingdom. Hence he is ever more prone to punish than to reward, to inflict pain than to bestow pleasure, to ruin than to build. It is his singular satisfaction to let created beings continually feel that they are nothing else than his slaves, his tools, and contemptible tools also, that thus they may the better acknowledge his superiority, and know his power to be above their power, his cunning above their cunning, his will above their will, his pride above their pride, or rather that there is no power, cunning, will, or pride, save his own. But he himself, sterile in his inaccessible height, neither loving nor enjoying aught save his own and self-measured decree, without son, companion, or counsellor, is no less barren for himself than for his creatures, and his own barrenness and lone egotism in himself is the cause and rule of his indifferent and unregarding despotism around. The first note is the key of the whole tune, and the primal idea of God runs through and modifies the whole system and creed that centres in him. That the notion here given of the Deity, monstrous and blasphemous as it may appear, is exactly and literally that which the Coran conveys or intends to convey, I at present take for granted. . . . Accordingly, when God—so runs the tradition; I had better said the blasphemy—resolved to create the human race, he took into his hands a mass of earth, the same whence all mankind were to be formed, and in which they, after a manner, pre-existed; and having then divided the clod into two equal portions, he threw the one half into hell, saying, "These to eternal fire, and I care not;" and projected the other half into heaven, adding, "And these to Paradise, and I care not."

This theology has been heard in Europe, and is a logical consequence of the attempt to construe our notions of the Divinity from a dialectic treatment of supposed attributes of the absolute. But, apart from the doctrines, there is a certain tone in Mr. Palgrave's statement of them which will annoy many, and set them about discovering how he came by the strong antipathy which he everywhere expresses against Mohammedanism in general, and its present form in particular. It is, perhaps, hardly to be expected that any one should live for months among men who he well knows would thirst for and infallibly shed his blood were they aware of his true character, without entertaining a lively animosity in return; but although Mr. Palgrave, in the scene between himself and the acting ruler at Riad, shows how narrowly he escaped falling a victim to Wahhabee fanaticism and suspicion, we cannot but confess that not only in the above extracts, but in every remark he makes on their religion and government, he allows his feelings to lead him to condemnatory conclusions, which seem to us one-sided and exaggerated, and that, too, on grounds of evidence he gives in other parts of his volumes. Fanatics and puritans they may be, but the Wahhabees are unquestionably the most able and energetic race in the Peninsula. They have surmounted the most utter defeats, and shown the vitality of their faith and system by recovering from the crushing blows dealt them by Ibrahim Pasha. It is somewhat curious to contrast the tone in which Mr. Palgrave recounts the wholesale massacre of Nejdean theologians by the Egyptian conqueror, than which nothing could more resemble Jehu's treatment of the priests of Baal, with the judgment he uniformly passes on the means taken by the Wahhabees to extend and consolidate their power. It is the more necessary to make these remarks, because Mr. Palgrave very truly says that he is more concerned with "human Arabia" than with its geological or geographical features, as it cannot be denied that there are certain features, and these not the lowest in human character, for which he shows but scant sympathy.

When, however, it is borne in mind how small were his scientific appliances, how completely he was restricted by common prudence to the equipment which his assumed character justified, it is quite surprising what a mass of information he has managed to gather together upon almost every topic of interest connected with the country. His account of desert travelling is the most graphic we have anywhere seen, and he had to cross several arms or gulfs, as it might be said, of that Sea of Sand which surrounds the central plateau of the country, and runs up wherever its formation will allow, exactly as if it were a true sea. One of the strangest features of these sandy wastes is the occasional occurrence of sudden depressions from six to eight hundred feet deep, circular like the punch-bowls of our chalk formation, which are never filled up, though their sides are but loose sand. Many of them are inhabited by a few solitary families, while in the great southern desert, or Dahna, more are tenanted only by gazelles and other wild animals.

It is, however, quite impossible to give within any reasonable limits an idea of the interest and variety of these volumes. With dromedaries and Nejdean horses we seem, in spite of their renown, to make a new acquaintance on reading Mr. Palgrave's account of them; while in his history of the Wahhabee dynasty, and of the personal adventures of Telâl, the ruler in Shomer, we must have recourse to the tales of Scheharazade for adequate parallels. Indeed, nothing is more striking than the impression left on his readers' minds in this respect; Arab life seems but little changed since the days of Haroun al Raschid; and the Arabian Nights appear to be much more fully representative of a real life than is often supposed to be the case. Nor is this the only point in which Mr. Palgrave reminds us of those celebrated tales; he has about his method of narration

an Oriental amplitude of style, and fondness for digression, to which nothing but the novelty of his subject, and his complete mastery of it, would reconcile many of his readers. After his arrival at the shores of the Persian Gulf, he visited the district of Omân, or the South-eastern Coast, and suffered shipwreck in the Bay, off Mascat. His account of this misfortune and his escape can hardly be surpassed for vivacity and truth. Still the interest of his journey flags after his flight from Riad. This may perhaps be in part attributable to the loss of all his notes at the time of his shipwreck, if it be not sufficiently accounted for by the less dramatic character of the events themselves.

No one can lay down his book without regret at parting with a companion so singularly well-informed, and one who has so fortunately found a field exactly suited to his talents.

OXFORD SANSKRIT MANUSCRIPTS.

Catalogi Codicum Manuscriptorum Bibliothecae Bodleianae Pars Septima, Codices Sanscriticos complectens. Confecit Th. Aufrecht, A.M., Professor Edinensis. Oxonii: MDCCCLXIV.

NOTHING in the way of a general guide to Sanskrit literature, at all justifying its pretensions to such a character, has as yet been produced; the miserable attempt of Adelung, not unknown in its English version, being, really, quite beyond the pale of sober criticism. As to the comparatively scanty portion of ancient Indian literature that has received the honours of the press, we are, or rather were, not without a clue to it. For the time at which it appeared, the little Latin work of Professor Gildemeister was most creditable; but so great, within the last eighteen years, has been the industry of editors and translators, that a new impression of it, at least of twice the fulness of the old one, is perfectly practicable, and, indeed, is urgently demanded. Much more, however, than of any handbook of this description has need all along been felt of good catalogues of the various collections of Sanskrit manuscripts dispersed over Europe and India. Passing by the inextensive performances of this kind, by Hamilton, Westergaard, Boehtlingk, Dorn, Roth, and others, we meet, in the outcome of Professor Weber's meritorious labours on the Chambers' MSS. at Berlin, with the earliest publication of the sort in question that challenges serious attention. Two catalogues, having to do with manuscripts in India, severally preceded and have followed that last mentioned. The one is the "Mackenzie Collection" of the late Professor Wilson; the other, apparently unknown to Professor Aufrecht, though published in 1861, Dr. Hall's "Contribution towards an Index to the Bibliography of the Indian Philosophical Systems." To these may be added, should it be thought to deserve notice, the amorphous abortion fathered by Mr. Taylor, of Madras; and we are brought, all claims of recognition satisfied, to the goodly quarto of 578 pages named at the head of this article.

The Sanskrit MSS. of the Bodleian Library formerly belonged, a very few excepted, to Professor H. H. Wilson, the Rev. Dr. W. H. Mill, Sir William Walker, and Mr. Fraser. Those of Professor Wilson are the most numerous, as well as, perhaps, on the whole, the most valuable; while Sir William Walker's boast the greatest antiquity, and are the most carefully executed. The aggregate is by no means copious. The shelves of the India Office Library display at least sixfold its wealth. In several departments its representation is most meagre. Hindu astronomy and philosophy, for instance, would be beggarly things indeed, if justly to be measured by the samples of them that have reached Oxford. Still, it is not necessary to go beyond our shores for materials in which to explore well-nigh exhaustively most branches of Indian lore and speculation, any more than to find the explorers themselves. The Sanskrit library of the immortal Colebrooke enriches, happily, the archives of

Cannon Row; and we possess, in Dr. Muir, and Professors Cowell, Griffith, Goldstücker, and Müller, not to name the lesser lights, a constellation of Sanskritists for which, in thoroughness and grace of scholarship, no other country can offer a parallel. The activity and erudition of the continental orientalisks we are far from rating lightly; and, when we consider the zeal and the ability that only await, in Europe, an opportunity to exercise themselves in fathoming the wisdom of the East, it is to be regretted that the libraries of Benares should not at once be imported to regions where they would find students of greater intelligence than those who now nod over their red wrappers. The Brahman, in quality of conservator and transmitter of the learning of his forefathers, will, before no long period, be sought for in vain. In the fulness of time, the pale-hued Saraswati has wended her way to the land of the *mlechchha*, to domicile in Aryabhumi no more; and the white-ant—a more potent minister of destruction, by far, than our typical moles and bats—will soon be the sole votary of her scroll and lute, if she left them behind when she flitted.

The subjects of the books described in Professor Aufrecht's Catalogue, of which a section is devoted to each, are the epopee, *tātrika* mysticism, profane poetry, the drama, prose fiction, Sanskrit grammar, Prakrit grammar, lexicography, prosody, music, rhetoric, the *ars poetica*, philosophy, jurisprudence, medicine, astronomy, astrology, and mathematics. And then come three detailed indexes, most acceptable facilities, and evidently drawn up with conscientious laboriousness.

Bearing in mind whence it was derived, the Bodleian stock of Indian mythology is disappointingly hungry. Strange to say, we miss, there, upwards of two-thirds of the expositions which have been built up on the foundation of the celebrated *Bhagavadgītā*. Nor do we find a single one of the seven commentaries which have been evoked by the *Rāmāyana*. Of their existence we speak confidently, as we have seen them with our own eyes; but only two of them have, to our knowledge, as yet left Asia. In the meantime, the modern and every way inferior Bengal recension of the *Rāmāyana*, mistaken for the authentic and original form of the great Aryan epic, has, to the loss of much good paper, been printed, in its entirety, by Signor Gorresio, and turned at large into very Dantesque Italian. Mistakes of a kindred nature have been much too frequent of occurrence among the orientalisks of the Continent. For instance, another scholar expended years of misdirected toil in turning the puerilities of the *Harivans'a* into French; and the admirable Burnouf wasted no trifling proportion of his lifetime over that colluvies of all that is rubbishy the *Bhāgavatapurāna*. Incomparably more worthy of his acknowledged ability, if he had but been conscious of it, would have been—after the *Veda* and the *Zandavastā*—a good edition of the *Vāyu* hagiogony. To this work—an excellent, but, unfortunately, imperfect copy of which is at Oxford—Professor Aufrecht, with due appreciation of the rank it rightly holds among the Purānas, has devoted no fewer than seven of his copious pages. Some of his extracts are exceedingly curious; and none of them is devoid of considerable interest. In respect of the *Kapila-sāṃhitā*, the arguments of which are exhibited in full, it is satisfactory to know, notwithstanding the augury of its title, that no accession to our acquaintance with the Sāṅkhya philosophy is to be gathered from its legends.

We turn to the Tantras; for it is only a volume here and there, out of the host analyzed in this catalogue, that we can even so much as refer to. Colebrooke, as all readers of his "Essays" are aware, first surmised that the Tantras would richly reward examination, and then retracted this conjectural estimate. That they received from him, or have received from any one, since his time, the full measure of scrutiny

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to which, on various grounds, they are entitled, is, possibly, doubtful. By Professor Aufrecht, as is manifest from the care with which he has pored on such of them as have fallen in his way, they certainly appear to be esteemed otherwise than as futile for purposes of history. And it may be rash to except to his judgment of them, if we reflect that the practical superstition which has for ages prevailed throughout the Gangetic valley is beholden to them for the origin and development of its ceremonial. All who know of the S'aktas of Bengal are prepared for almost any excess of abomination in their so-called religious rites. Nevertheless, we confess we were a little surprised at the following intimation, taken from an account of the *S'aktā-nandatarangini*: "Non modo pecudes, sed nonnunquam, quamvis a regibus tantum, homines mactatos esse, his apparebit." There is not a shadow of doubt that the Sanskrit—which we need not quote—bears out the assertion that human sacrifices are enjoined in the offices of the Tāntrika caco-demonolatry. And these atrocities are not, even in our age, quite unknown among the Hindus. Within the last fifteen years a young man has been immolated to the goddess Kālī in the very heart of the city of Benares.

In his division headed *carmina artificiosa*, the compiler supplies ample means of ascertaining the worth of the Bodleian MSS. of the classical *Raybhavans'a* and *Kumārasambhava*, as compared with the copies collated by the European editors of these poems. And he has also particularized the numerous authorities quoted by the commentator Mallinātha, a diligent dabbler in all manner of subjects, whose age has been made out at least approximately. The utility of lists like those here spoken of—and Professor Aufrecht gives a good number of them—will at once be admitted by any one who has gone deeply enough into Sanskrit literature to have perceived the extent to which it scorns considerations of chronology. In nineteen cases out of twenty, all that can be determined, as to the time in which a given Indian writer flourished, is, that such and such other writers, as being cited by him, were his predecessors. Especially valuable is the compiler's catalogue of poets excerpted in the large anthology which bears, from its author, the name of *S'ārngadhara* *padhātī*. Touching the time in which S'ārngadhara lived, the MSS. that have come to Europe are, we believe, without a reservation, silent. In an excellent codex which we have consulted, the anthologist is made to date his work in the year 1420 of the *Samvat* era, corresponding to A.D. 1363.

After all the theories that have been erected on the basis of the *Bhojaprabandha*, it would sadly confound certain speculators, if they were still living, to find that this inveterate chronicle, as Professor Aufrecht has established beyond reach of contradiction, appertains to the end of the seventeenth century. For this discovery all should be grateful who respect the sobrieties of history. Many is the Indian celebrity that has borne the name of Bhoja. The most distinguished of the Bhojas was he of Dhārā, a chieftain of the middle of the eleventh century; and it happens that he figures largely in fables which have too long been received as fact. A few learned men of his day ascribed their own writings to him; such ascription being the Indian equivalent to dedication with us, and being so understood by the Hindus: and herein consists all the real foundation for his reputation as a great patron of letters, a second Vikramāditya.

As an example of the compiler's perspicacity, we find him speaking of the *S'rutabodha* as being "libellus Kālidāsae *cvidam* tributus." It has long passed our understanding how the Sanskrit world could hitherto concur, without an articulate dissenting voice, in believing the nerveless and insipid poetast, at the low level of which the *S'rutabodha* creeps, to have emanated from the muse of Kālidāsa the Great. Oscitate as she might, surely she could never so far have forgotten herself as to drivel in this wise.

Professor Aufrecht's unacquaintance with the recent writings of Sanskritists in India, while it lends to his pages a certain air of originality—as where he dwells on a work already disserted on by some one else, as if it had hitherto gone unnoticed—has, on the other hand, its disadvantages. But for this unacquaintance, we scarcely think—to give one instance—that he would have attributed the *Ratnāvalī* and *Nāgānanda* dramas to Harshadeva. Their age and author were pretty conclusively settled several years ago; and there is no ground whatever for considering them, as the compiler considers them, to be compositions of the writer of the *Nai-shadhiya*. That they were of earlier date is certain; and that they are to be credited to Bāna is highly probable.

GRASP YOUR NETTLE.

Grasp your Nettle. By E. Lynn Linton. 3 Vols. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)

IF a peculiarity of title affects in the remotest degree the success of a novel, and its assiduous advertisement tends to the same result, we must congratulate Mrs. Linton upon the means she has adopted for bringing her book under the notice of the public. "Grasp your Nettle" has been for some time announced as shortly forthcoming, and—like the mysterious advertisement of the Rantoon, that puzzled the public for so long a period—may reasonably be supposed to have excited the curiosity and interest of those subscribers to the circulating libraries who form the chief patrons of this class of literature.

If at a time when novels are daily pouring from the press, adventitious aids are necessary to ensure a favourable reception, Mrs. Linton is entitled to every credit for her skill in adopting such means for obtaining a successful introduction for her book.

Here, however, we fear our congratulations must cease. The same originality which distinguishes the title is entirely wanting in the book itself, which is a bad imitation of those weaker novels of once-successful writers, which are tolerated, it is to be supposed, upon the grounds of gratitude for the popularity of their earlier works, not un-mixed with hope that something approaching the excellence by which that popularity was gained, may some day be repeated. Whether the fault lies with the readers or writers of such works is not our business to inquire here; but so long as Miss Braddon, Mrs. H. Wood, and others, relying on the reputation of their earlier works, can find publishers to produce, and readers to buy, the trash they think proper to write, it is quite certain that imitators will be found to share the profits and honours to be derived from what appears, and doubtless is, so easy a task as to satisfy the novel readers of the present day.

We presume that "Grasp your Nettle" is intended to take rank among the so-called "sensation" novels, as bigamy, "without which no novel is complete," forms the principal ingredient; and though it turns out to be but a false alarm, we have all the delightful sensations which are naturally excited by the contemplation of the possibility of such a catastrophe, and we can enjoy the analysis of the feelings of the principal actors of the tale.

It is true, we cannot help recalling to our recollection the manner in which this not over-attractive subject has been treated since it has become the necessary foundation of the plot of the modern novel; and the result of the comparison is not in Mrs. Linton's favour.

Jasper Trelawny, the hero of the story, is introduced to us as a widower with two children, who takes the Crofts, in Clive Vale, and marries Aura Escott, the daughter of the rector of the parish. He tells no one of his antecedents, and thereby raises the curiosity and suspicion of his neighbours. We are soon introduced to the nettle which has to be grasped by Jasper and his wife, and which it certainly appears he has taken great pains to cultivate and rear. It appears that

his first wife was a member of a family of swindlers, and was transported for stealing in Paris. Jasper, after hearing of her death, dropped his surname, and, assuming that of Trelawny, his second Christian name, takes refuge in England, where we are first introduced to him. His wife's brother finds him out in his retreat, and works upon him by threatening to disclose his real name, and by telling him that his first wife is still alive. Aura, notwithstanding his precautions, soon discovers his difficulties, and urges him to grasp his nettle, which he finally does by verifying his wife's death (which never seems to have struck him before); and his amiable brother-in-law, being charged with forgery committed in Paris, saves the country the necessity of providing him with a refuge, by adopting the novel expedient of blowing out his own brains.

The subordinate characters are faintly sketched, and seem created solely for the purpose of being utterly confounded and put to shame for suspecting Jasper of having married Aura during the life of his first wife. But as it is quite uncertain for some time whether such is not the case, and, moreover, the elucidation of the mystery is the nettle to be grasped, and cost Jasper much trouble, to say nothing of a journey to Madeira, we must think that they had great cause for their suspicions; and much unnecessary pains are taken to prove them in the wrong when their doubts are so well justified by the behaviour of Jasper.

Mrs. Escott (Aura's mother) may be called, *par excellence*, the nettle of the piece; and Aura is certainly to be excused putting into practice with regard to her, the maxim she so often impresses upon her husband, and, as we think, wisely adopts the course of avoiding, by marrying Jasper, instead of grasping so obnoxious a weed. Indeed, this seems to be the true philosophy to be applied to nettles generally, whether moral or real. Whether wives address their husbands in the words of the title of the book we leave our readers to decide. Aura, on more than one occasion, exhorts her husband to grapple with his difficulties in language like this: "Fear will not help us through—we must face our danger and understand our position—we must grasp our nettle, Jasper, and know the truth."

Whether the above expressions are intended to be different ways of conveying the same meaning, we hardly know; the passage reminds us of the well-known story of the Irish barrister, who thus expressed himself: "I smell a rat, I see a storm brewing, but with your lordship's leave I will nip it in the bud."

As an example of fine writing (we suppose) take the following, describing the effect of Aura's management upon the establishment at the Crofts:—

In consequence of which the house and grounds had a something about them that was not only wealth, and perfectness of appointment, and sufficiency of service, but a certain, as it were, spiritual beauty, an *unseen aureola*, a *hidden aroma*, a *secret harmony*, which no one could absolutely specify wherein it resided, but which everyone felt!!

It will be scarcely necessary to give any other examples of what is considered the correct style of filling up the pages between the intervals of forwarding the plot.

We have had enough of this—we have had these subjects painted by masters, and we do not like to see them daubed by "prentice hands." Great subjects require great artists, and we do not think that a subject of this nature is either wholesome or entertaining. Let us recommend to Mrs. Linton's notice the fact that there are four other prohibitory Commandments upon which she might exercise her talents without so much risk of utter failure as adopting this fashionable aspect of the seventh. Let us recommend to her notice the example of the Abbe * * *, who, instead of confining himself to one grievance, is conscientiously running through the whole scale of the faults of his own Church, from "Le Maudit" through "Le Jésuite," to "Le Moine," and

promises to conclude the series with "Le Confesseur" and "Le Curé de Village." This is combining amusement and instruction—mixing oil and water with a vengeance. Perhaps in striking out a new path, Mrs. Linton might avoid the error of treating a hackneyed subject in a feeble manner; at all events a greater chance of success awaits her by adopting this course than in pursuing the one she has entered upon. But the evil does not end here. As we have before said, so long as there are readers of such trash there will be writers to supply the demand, and, we regret to say, critics to applaud. Probably, as the machinery of advertisement has already been put in motion, we shall see future announcements of "Grasp your Nettle," with various extracts appended, describing it in the usual terms: "A remarkable book;" "the glowing pages breathe the great warmth of feeling;" "long since a better novel was produced;" "displays skilful elaboration of plot with sustained dignity of moral tone;" &c., &c., *ad nauseam*.

All we can say is that it would be about as safe to entrust our life and health in the hands of some quack, upon the strength of the testimonials from countless sufferers who have been cured by some never-failing pill or wonder-working draught, as the choice and direction of our literary food to those who are willing to testify to the wholesomeness and ability of such work as this; for they, like their prototypes above mentioned, either give their testimony for hire, or fail to ascertain the truth of that which they so fearlessly and strongly assert.

Those who profess to guide the taste of their readers, and to teach them what to buy, read, and avoid, will do well to warn them against "Grasp your Nettle," *et hoc omne genus*.

OUR RACE-HORSES.

Our Saddle Horses. By Ker B. Hamilton, Esq., C.B. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)

MR. HAMILTON'S protest against the practices which are ruining our thoroughbred horses, and creating thereby a most annoying scarcity of powerful and efficient animals, either for the road or the field, has been suddenly made emphatic in consequence of the somewhat ignominious defeat of all our English favourites at Epsom by their foreign antagonist. In spite of our wealth, in spite of our experience, in spite of our zeal, in spite of our breeding ten racehorses whilst the French breed one, we have no such three-year-old as Gladiateur, no such four-year-olds as Vermouth and Fille de l'Air, no such five-year-old as Dollar. It is true that our neighbours across the Channel have imitated us in the objectionable habit of training and running two-year-old colts, which Mr. Hamilton puts forward, justly as we think, as one reason why we find ourselves in an evil condition. And, therefore, the superiority which they are fast acquiring may be traceable to something else, perhaps to a drier, warmer, and more equable climate. But though this might, and probably will, be said by those turf optimists who maintain that Eclipse, if he could now be resuscitated, would not win a 50l. plate, we differ from them entirely. We believe that the French turfites have succeeded, because, in spite of borrowing one very mischievous custom from our very mischievous system, they have, in other respects, attended more carefully than we do to the conditions which are calculated to ensure permanent success in horse-breeding. With them racing has not become, as yet, a mere trade, nor racehorses simply and solely live dice. They have given any price asked for sound, stout, and true-hearted horses, resolutely refusing from the very first to encumber themselves with infirm brutes, however high their turf reputation might be. We, on the other hand, looking only to the advantage of the moment, have bred from any cripple, or roarer, or weed that came across us, provided we could hope that its progeny would possess anything like a pace,

and the result is that speed has followed power, and that one French colt, bred to stay, runs off from twenty-seven English colts, bred to spurt, as if they were standing still—nay more, the worst feature in the case is, that the disease admits, we will not say of no possible, but at any rate of no probable cure. We read the other day, in one of the weekly journals, a gloomy anticipation of the world as it is to be some hundreds of years hence. Coal will soon be exhausted under the pressure of an ever-spreading and ever-hurrying civilization, the silvas of the Amazons, vast as they seem to be, will follow before our great-grandchildren can look round. The disappearance of the forests must necessarily lessen the supply of rain, so that the earth will pass back by instalments into sterility and desolation—nay, even if the inventive spirit of man could replace, which seems impossible, the waste which he occasions, the sun, slowly consuming in his own fires, is anything but eternal, and, poor fellow, will, after a few myriads of years, as Lord Byron foretold of him—

Swing blind and blackening in the mornless air.

On reading these bilious speculations, what strikes us is, that, after all, things must take their course. Some trifling palliatives perhaps may be imagined. Legislatures might enact severe laws against the profligate misuse of fuel and manure, and such edicts might squeeze out of the infinite a hundred years or so more of life for posterity, but permanent evasion of God's judgment there is none. Whatever we may desire, we cannot hope to arrest the rush and development of human existence; so that if it is doomed to prey upon itself, we can only shrug our shoulders and wish it a good digestion. So in reading Mr. Ker Hamilton's little pamphlet, we are oppressed by a similar feeling of hopelessness. We agree with everything which he says; but when we turn to his recommendations, there is no help in him. The remedies indicated are futile. The restoration of long distances and high weights as the conditions of a Queen's Plate—though, if regarded as a protest against the present system, it would do no harm—as a means of influencing racing men, is a change so ludicrously inadequate to the end proposed, that it is not worth discussing. The fact is, from the moment that racing became a trade, causes tending to the deterioration of the horse were at work, and unless you could throw the spirit of the times back for a hundred years, you will not be able to make it anything else. In the days when Flying Childers, of whom Mr. Hamilton makes honourable mention, acquired his somewhat mythical reputation, a certain number of noblemen and gentlemen kept running horses as a natural appendage to their station in life, and tried to rival each other in the excellence of their studs. They gambled, very likely, when the temptation presented itself, but their principal object was to breed fine horses, and not to make money. Accordingly, horses were measured then by their intrinsic qualities, however tested, rather than by mere victories at Newmarket.

It would, we believe, surprise Mr. Hamilton greatly to find how slight is the notice taken of his favourite Childers in the old racing calendars. The Duke of Devonshire's Childers, without any note of admiration, wins a couple of matches, and goes his way. The great public runner of the day was the Duke of Rutland's Bonny Black. Like Childers, she was foaled in 1815; and why they never met must be left to conjecture. Childers, very likely, may have shown his superiority in friendly gallops at Chatsworth or Haddon Hall; and, as we observed before, racing not being then a trade, the Duke of Devonshire may have contented himself with knowing that he possessed the finest horse in the world—a horse whom no one would venture to encounter in a match—then the prevalent form of racing; nor cared to hack him about the country for the sake of a few trumpery plates and cups. At that period there were no Two Thousand Guinea Stakes, no Derby, no Grand Prix de Paris—nothing,

in short, worth winning from the trading point of view. Nobody, therefore, was tempted to discount a fine colt before he arrived at maturity; and a racehorse developed himself as fully as a hunter or a hack before he was called upon to exert his powers. This, however, did not last long. From 1750 to 1800, the three-year-olds were brought forward more and more; and during the last years of the eighteenth century the races for which they contended became, as they continue to be, the principal prizes of the Turf. It does not appear, however, as far as we can judge, that any appreciable mischief was done to the breed of English horses by this first step towards our present system. John Bull, Waxy Hambletonian, Haphazard, &c., could apparently run four-mile races, or four-mile heats, if called upon, under heavy weights, *ad libitum*; and it may be worth remarking that the Arabs of Algeria inculcate as a maxim that the high-bred colt is to be pressed severely at three, then rested and well fed till five, if his owner intends him to grow into a first-rate horse. So that, if these innovations had stopped there, no great harm would probably have been done; but the greediness and eagerness for money could not wait, and colts younger still were forced into the service of Mammon. Somewhere about 1810, in the days of Oiseau and Altisidora, these pernicious two-year-old stakes were getting common. From that time to this, spreading and spreading, they have become the rule instead of the exception, and the result is that whenever two of our best horses carry 10 stone over the Beacon course for the Whip, it is safe to bet odds that one of them will break down. With respect to the remedies applicable to this state of things, it is difficult to say whether they are easier or more impossible. Do away with all two-year-old races, discountenance even three-year-old contests, let the Derby and St. Leger be run for—the first over a three-mile, the latter over a four-mile course—by five-year-olds, carrying 9 stone 7, and in twenty or thirty years the old-fashioned stamp of thoroughbred will re-appear. All this sounds simple enough, but in reality you might as well attempt to make Spitalfields and Bishopsgate Street the fashionable quarters of London, instead of Belgravia and Grosvenor Square. From the Turf Mr. Hamilton will get no help. The one improvement which suggests itself to us as not wholly futile is an alteration in the weights, so as to exclude three-year-olds from winning any cup, or all-aged race, except by virtue of great and unusual superiority. At present they are so favourably treated, that they win every thing as a matter of course; whilst, if they were confined to their own rich prizes, and left something for their elders, it might induce breeders to look forward a little, and spare the yet unfashioned bones and sinews of those four-legged babies who are galloped to death for the Woodcot Stakes, the Althorp Stakes, and other such early competitions. Admiral Rous's plan of getting 5,000l., to be run for by older horses over a longer course, is also good as far as it goes; and perhaps if Lord Derby, on behalf of the Jockey Club, will undertake that any colt entered for this Plate, whose name is not taken out of Homer, shall carry five pounds extra, the Chancellor of the Exchequer may smile and listen, otherwise we fear he will not be persuadable. But none of these palliatives are calculated to do good, except in an infinitesimal degree. We own that we should have more hope of an association of noblemen and gentlemen, with the Prince of Wales at their head, separating themselves from the Turf, and endeavouring to re-establish the supremacy of England in the production of horses as an end by itself. If the members of such an association thought proper, they might, now and then, bring down some noble creature, with his neck clothed in thunder, to distance the sinewless shadows who now represent our ancient English race-horse, in a contest for the Whip; but this should be entirely collateral to their main object—the restoration of the breed. This would be an aim,

1 JULY, 1865.

under present circumstances, well worthy of a Prince's ambition; and we confess, were we in his place, that we should feel that a flower had been plucked from our crown, and that an omen to be deprecated had arisen, when we found that the kingdom destined for us had been forced to yield her old and hard-won pre-eminence as the kingdom of the horse to her ancient rival, more especially when we recalled to our mind, as the old traditions of Greece informed us, that the horse was created, and then given to man, by Neptune, the ruler of the waves. All this, however, is, we fear, very far off; and as we have let Frenchmen carry off from us horses whom the Editor of *Bell's Life* justly designates, by an impressive though somewhat incongruous metaphor, as the very cream of our English Turf, it may be for these remedial measures even now too late. When Mr. Hamilton, leaving the practical part of his subject, undertakes to teach us the history of the horse, he is not, we think, eminently successful. As to what may have happened before the Deluge, and whether antediluvian Derbies may not have been contended for in the plains of Shinar, we may leave to his imagination; but, as a fact, we believe the best informed naturalists agree that the ass was the first of the solid-hoofed animals domesticated by man. And that, unless we are to suppose that there existed at the beginning different tribes of the wild horse, in different parts of the globe, as there exist now different species of the zebra and wild ass, it is to Africa, not to Asia, as he says, that we are to look for the original *habitat* of the race. Horses appear to have been first subjugated in Egypt, and the Barb is apparently older than the Arabian. As far as we can judge, the Arab steed had no reputation in the time of Herodotus.

The great horse of the world, so far as he knew, was the white courser of Silicia, whose superiority over the finest animals of Thessaly he has recorded in what may be considered the first of turf records: "And far away were the best of the Thessalians left beaten by the Medes." The Bedouins of that day, in the meantime, according to him, were riding upon camels. Now, the most interesting historical problem connected with our English blood-horse is, whether he has inherited any of this Silician blood; and why, during the last hundred years, he has ceased to be what he originally was—white? If Mr. Hamilton will look into the earliest racing calendars, he will find that the whites and greys predominate in the proportion of 6 and 7 to 1, whereas now, a grey horse is quite a rarity. This curious fact has not been noticed, that we are aware of, by any naturalist, and, as far as we can recollect, the grey horses who have figured within our own time, as a rule, were remarkable for endurance and what is called bottom. Something, therefore, may have been lost as well as gained by the introduction of the Dorley Arabian, the Godolphin Arabian, and the Byerley Turk, under whose influence the older element has almost disappeared.

Again, Mr. Hamilton seems to us to be in error, when he says that the English blood-breeds of the present day are more indebted to the Dorley and Godolphin Arabians, than to all the foreign horses which have entered this country. We cannot allow the Byerley Turk to be passed over in this manner. In point of fact, the blood of these three animals is so intermingled in the veins of every colt that is foaled, that it is difficult to give the preference to one of them over the other. Still, as the ancestor in the male line of Herod, Highflier, Sir Peter Tearle, Woodpecker, Buzzard, Phenomenon; and as the ancestor in the female line of Waxy-Gohanna, Hambletonian, Orville, Sorcerer, and a host of others, the Byerley Turk seems to us to stand at least upon a level with his two competitors, if not *primus inter pares*. For example, Whalebone, the most popular *atavis* of the present day, had at least as much of the Byerley Turk in

him as of either of the Arabians. These, however, are unimportant matters. Mr. Hamilton is so right in the main, and writes with so much earnestness and good sense, that we gladly recommend his book to all who take an interest in his subject, and only regret that in the present state of general indifference to all objects not close at hand, we cannot anticipate any great result from his well-meant endeavours.

THE OLD TESTAMENT: A NEW TRANSLATION.

The Hebrew Scriptures. Translated by Samuel Sharpe. Vol. I. (Whitfield, Green, & Son.)

WE welcome the first volume of Mr. Sharpe's revision of the authorized English Old Testament, to which his reputation for Oriental learning will no doubt secure attention, as a contribution to the efforts now being made, in more than one direction, to rouse the English public from that real indifference to the truth about the Bible which is masked to ordinary English thought beneath a fetish-like worship of the letter of the Bible. In itself, so far as we have been able to examine it, the translation is carefully made; and the little notes, inserted between brackets in the text, by way of supplementary translation, appear generally to give correct information, though here and there an error has crept in. For instance, in Gen. x. 27, Hadoram is identified with the modern Hadramout, though we believe there is no doubt that this place should be identified with Hazermaveth in verse 26, the two names being, in fact, identical in the mouth of an Arab. Of course, the real difficulties of the work will begin only with the Psalmists and Prophets. And then Mr. Sharpe can hardly expect that his variations from the Authorized Version—which, no doubt, will be, or at least ought to be, many and great—will be accepted at once on his sole authority, without a note to explain the grounds of his translation, or any hint as to the authorities on whom he relies for it. Such notes could not, of course, be supplied without largely increasing the expense of the book; and it is Mr. Sharpe's express purpose to keep this as low as possible. The result is, however, that, with all its excellent points, his work must be defective to this extent for the earnest student (if not himself a competent Hebrew scholar), who wishes to be assured of the true, or most probable, meaning of any disputed passage. To the general reader, however, this work will, no doubt be very serviceable.

But although Mr. Sharpe's exertions deserve our sincere commendation, we must seriously ask whether, in the present state of Biblical science and English thought, a gentleman of Mr. Sharpe's attainments ought to content himself with so meagre a contribution to a sound knowledge of the Scriptures as is contained in this revised translation, *unaccompanied by a hint to guide the student to a correct judgment of the age, authorship, mode of composition, general character, or probable historical value of the works translated.* Mr. Sharpe is certainly no stranger to the profound investigations into these matters which, after long occupying the attention of scholars in the freer theological atmosphere of the Continent, have at last crossed the Channel, and found their way even into the closely-guarded preserves of English orthodoxy. But a reader of this volume would scarcely derive from it a suspicion that any such investigations had ever been made, much less a notion of their results. What is really wanted by any intelligent student of the English Bible is, we conceive, not merely a translation adapted to the advance of knowledge, due to the accumulation of materials, the progress of criticism, and the growth of the science of languages, since the days of James I., but a translation, accompanied by *honest* notes, or introductions, calling his attention to the great results of the searching examination bestowed upon the Scriptures, especially in Germany, in modern times.

We use the word *honest* advisedly; not as

imputing any intention to deceive to the defenders of the supernatural inspiration and infallibility of the Bible, but to point out the *practical dishonesty* by which all their operations are tainted, from the fact that they are avowedly directed, not to ascertain what the truth is, but to show that what they have been accustomed to assert to be the truth is true. Now it matters not to what subject this kind of process is applied, science of the present or of the past, science of matter or science of mind, or science of the Divine; in every conceivable department of inquiry, the man who, in the conduct of that inquiry considers, not "to what conclusion does this or that phenomenon legitimately point," but "what will be the consequence of my admitting the conclusion to be legitimate; can I admit it without owning myself to have been mistaken in this or some other matter?" that man is *self-doomed to dishonesty*. He cannot see objects in their true colours, because he chooses to look through coloured spectacles.

Our remark is general; it does not apply to one class of opinions more than to another. If at the present day it appears to affect the upholders of what are called orthodox opinions on questions of Scriptural criticism more than the upholders of the opposite views, this is simply because orthodoxy is accustomed to appeal to the supposed alarming consequences of a free criticism of the Scriptures, as a dissuasive against such investigations. The alarm is, indeed, one which we are far from sharing. Long and careful examination of the results of critical inquiry, whether into the Old or the New Testament, has produced in us the conviction that nothing which the experience of the Christian world, in its many subdivisions, shows to have constituted the religious life of Christianity can be lost through these results; and that they cannot deprive the Sacred Books of their right to the foremost place among those influences on which the religious education of mankind depends. That the popular conceptions associated with these books and the realities of religion will have to be materially modified through the results of critical inquiry we admit. But though the conception is modified, the reality conceived of will remain. The action of the sun is the same now, when we place it 92,000,000 of miles from the earth, as when it was believed to be close to us. The soil is as fertile now, when we attribute its formation to the slow processes of deposition under water, upheaval, and denudation, as when men fancied that it started into existence at God's bidding, charged with the principles of vegetable life. So, that trust in God, which the Bible breathes from every page, will continue to form the life of the just, and they will continue to seek in its pages the most living expression of that trust, though they have ceased to suppose that the Spirit of God influenced good men of old otherwise than as it influences good men now. We repeat, then, that we do not share the alarm so loudly expressed in many quarters, at the consequences of critical inquiry into the Scriptures. But were this otherwise, we could not change our conclusion as to the duty of making the inquiry without regard to any supposed consequence. What is, or can be, gained by imagining the universe and its Author to be other than they are? What security for faith or practice can we obtain, by assuming books to have been written by persons, and at times, by whom and when, according to all the evidence accessible to us, they could not have been written; or ascribing infallibility to narratives, which we can defend from the charge of gross error only by torturing their plain meaning into agreement with what we have discovered without their aid? The folly imputed to the ostrich, of thinking itself safe from harm if it can only hide its eyes, is wisdom compared with such a process.

To return to our immediate subject, we repeat our hope that a gentleman so competent to discharge the duty so urgently called for at the present day from any one

who would translate the Old Testament into English, of an honest commentary upon it, will not limit himself to the task of bringing our Authorized Version up to the level of the modern knowledge of Hebrew, however well he may perform this useful task. That the effort will be useful, not only by helping to clear up the obscurities which in many passages of Psalms and Prophets make our present translation unintelligible, but by getting men's minds out of the ruts of prejudice wherein they now run as to all that concerns the Bible, we indeed believe. Mr. Sharpe, for instance, substitutes "Jehovah" for "the Lord" of our Authorized Version; the novelty of the word may probably make the English reader more alive to that striking difference in the names given to God in different passages of the Old Testament, which first opened the eyes of impartial students to the composite structure of the Pentateuch. But why did he not complete the work by using the Hebrew Elohim or El in place of the word God, which flits before the eye of the ordinary English reader with so little thought as to its difference from Jehovah? Why, too, does he give no intimation of the probable pronunciation of the last name, as Jahve or Jah, preserved in the 68th Psalm, v. 4—a fact so important in the history of the word from the analogy which it establishes with Iao, Iouhus, and other variations of the Syrian title for their Supreme God, the reviving sun, that exhaustless source of light and heat and life, of which the "bush that burned with fire," but "was not consumed," described to have been seen by Moses in the mid-winter, or very early spring, is no inappropriate symbol? Much also might, we think, be usefully done by mere difference of type, to bring forcibly before the eyes of the reader the composite nature of the ancient Hebrew documents, where this is clearly ascertainable, though the peculiarities which establish the difference in the original are inevitably obliterated by the uniform style of a translation. But this Mr. Sharpe does not at all attempt.

On the whole, then, what Mr. Sharpe's work professes to do, it seems to us to do well. But it does not furnish the sort of help to an understanding of what the Hebrew Scriptures really are, which a new translation of the Old Testament ought, we think, to furnish to the English student.

SANITARY STATISTICS.

Supplement to the Twenty-Fifth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England. (Spottiswoode.)

THIS volume embodies the results of the labours of the Registrar-General's Department in the field of Vital Statistics for a period of ten years, 1851-60. Probably no work has yet appeared of greater importance to all who are interested in the development of Sanitary Science; for it contains the authentic record of the mortality and diseases of every one of the 631 districts into which England is divided for registration purposes, during the ten years intervening between the two last censuses.

The tables show in detail the mean population, and the deaths from certain causes, at different ages, in each district, with the rate of mortality deduced from those data; and also, in a comparative view, the average annual mortality of each district in the two decennials 1841-50 and 1851-60, with the density of the population in juxtaposition.

Those who desire to investigate the relative healthfulness of certain occupations will value the table of deaths at different ages, of males of various occupations in England, in the two years 1860-1.

In an introductory letter, Dr. Farr analyzes the tables; and his deductions therefrom should, and will, no doubt, receive serious consideration.

The results of twenty-seven years' observations supply a measure of experience by which the various theories as to the laws of mortality, and the influence of locality, of occupation, and of certain diseases, upon the

physical condition of mankind, which have been put forth from time to time by eminent writers, may be tested; and by the authority which that experience confers many erroneous ideas are now corrected. For instance, some statisticians, even in the present day, speak of "the rate of mortality" when they really mean "the probability of dying;" and the distinction between these two terms is thus explained by Dr. Farr:—

The true rate of mortality is the ratio which the deaths bear to the *years of life*—a *year of life* being represented by one person living through a year, or two persons living through half a year. By the English Life Table, 1,000,000 infants followed through their first year of age yield 902,781 years of life; and the deaths in the period being 149,493, the mortality is at the rate of $\frac{149,493}{902,781} = .16559$, or 16.559 per cent. per annum. The probability of dying is $\frac{149,493}{1,000,000} = .149493$, and upon the erroneous assumption that this is the rate of mortality, it would be 14.949 per cent. per annum—less by 1.610 than the true rate, with which it should never be confounded.

In discussing the mortality at different stages of life, we are reminded of the defect in our registration system, which takes no account of the "still-born." These are not at present registered, "on the ground that it is difficult to distinguish them from abortions and miscarriages;" but the difficulties cannot be insuperable, and there is no doubt, as Dr. Farr observes, that "in many ways the facilities of burying stillborn children unregistered throw open the gate of temptation to crime." Moreover, if the reasoning be correct that "it is probable that as the mortality in the first year of breathing life rapidly increases as we proceed backwards from the twelfth to the third, second, and first month, the same law prevails during embryonic life," it is evident that steps should be taken to supply the facts, so necessary for a full consideration of the subject of infant mortality. Of infants in their first month of life, the mortality was at the rate of 57, and in their second month 22, per cent. per annum, in England, in the seventeen years 1838-54. In France, the returns for 1856 show a rate of mortality of 154 per cent. per annum of children in the first seven days of life, of 120 in the second seven days, and of 54 in the following sixteen days. All children who die before they are registered are reckoned in the French returns with the stillborn. The mortality just quoted is therefore understated, as the stillborn are omitted in the calculation.

Closely connected with the mortality of children is the mortality of women of the child-bearing age, "as mothers and children are exposed in common to many causes of mortality." A remarkable instance is given of a district (Crickhowell, in South Wales), in which 56 women died of child-birth in ten years, the total births during that period having numbered 8,808.

Of the fatal diseases, consumption exacts the most terrible tale of human life. It is most deadly, both to men and women, between the ages of fifteen and forty-five, the women being always the greatest victims; yet it is probable that few of the sex would acknowledge themselves blameable in the matter of "compression of the chest, and interfering with the free action of the breathing organs," which is assigned as a probable cause for their excessive mortality from this disease.

The mortality of men in London and in some of the large towns is very high—much higher than of women in the same places. The causes to which this is due require careful investigation, for the subject is of national importance. Dr. Farr says that "want of work" cannot be assigned as a reason for it. The hands and heads of the men of the working ages "are sufficiently employed to insure exercise. The drainage of their dwellings, and their water supply, is in many districts scanty; habits of ablution are not cultivated; and their skin is often unclean. They live too frequently in

"crowded rooms, from which fresher air than they breathe is excluded. It is the same in the workshops, where the air is in many trades loaded with dust, which induces bronchitis. Workshops are sometimes ill-constructed for the supply of air for breathing, and the men themselves throw obstacles in the way of ventilation. Spirits and other stimulants are by certain numbers—such as the publicans—taken to a fatal excess. These latter causes to some extent account for the excess in the mortality of men over the mortality of women."

The loss of life in dense town districts is illustrated by a table which shows that the deaths in thirty large town districts in the ten years numbered 711,944, whereas, if the towns had experienced as favourable a rate of mortality as prevailed in the sixty-three healthy districts of England, the deaths would only have amounted to 384,590; so there was an annual sacrifice of 32,735 deaths, "which may be justly ascribed to the unfavourable sanitary conditions in which the people live and die."

In making a comparison between the mortality of town and country districts without distinction of age, Dr. Farr administers to us, as the result of his experience, a caution "that the method is favourable to the towns," inasmuch as that immigration, which is an important element in all towns with a rapidly-increasing population, has a tendency "to reduce their rates of mortality by increasing the proportion of the living, at ages of less than the mean mortality of the people of the place."

Dr. Farr states that there is a constant relation between the density of population and the mortality, but he holds that mere proximity of dwellings alone does not necessarily involve a high rate of mortality. "When any zymotic matter, such as varioline, scarlatine, or typhine, finds its way into a village or street, it is more likely to pass from house to house than it is where the people are brought less frequently into contact. The exhalations into the air are thicker. But if an adequate water-supply and sufficient arrangements for drainage and cleansing are secured, as they can be by combination in towns, the evils which now make dense districts so fatal may be mitigated."

We have thus briefly touched upon some of the leading features of this most valuable official publication, which will be a powerful lever in the hands of those who are prosecuting measures of sanitary reform; and it is but the simplest justice to say that no public department has done so much to promote that reform as the one over which the Registrar-General and Dr. Farr preside.

By their weekly return of the health of London, and of some of the principal cities of the kingdom, and by their quarterly and annual reports, they have come to be regarded as the ever watchful monitors of the public safety in all those matters which concern the health of the people.

The volume is a model of what a statistical work should be, in the typographical arrangement of its six hundred pages of tabular matter. An alphabetical index facilitates the reference to any part of the volume.

PLUTOCRACY AND ARISTOCRACY

THE magnificent fête on the occasion of the marriage of a daughter of the Rothschild family, which was lately described in glowing terms by all the daily newspapers, suggests some reflections on the social uses of that particular form of vanity which shows itself in ostentation. This is the favourite vice—if it be a vice—of civilized societies in general, and of the English in particular; but it has its origin in the impulse of rivalry and the desire to outdo others which is common to human nature at all ages and in all circumstances. It is worth while to consider whether this impulse is turned to a good purpose by being applied to the prodigal exhibi-

tion of wealth where it really exists, or the strenuous affectation of it where it does not, which characterize most of the social festivities of London and Paris. For, anyone who watches the course of the season in London or Paris, and looks at the faces of the chief actors in it, can hardly avoid the conviction that it is a mere struggle of vanity, and that a pompous consciousness of self-importance is the chief result, at present obtained by the most highly educated and the most highly privileged of the human race, from the possession of the most abundant riches that human society can bestow. The desire to outdo, or not to be outdone by, others, seems the preponderating motive in all that takes place. If a few light-hearted girls really enjoy themselves, they are smiled at as naive and childish; while any downright sensuality or unrestrained self-indulgence on the part of the young men is frowned at as unprincipled and profligate. Our sensible and respectable full grown men and women rush into no such extremes. When the father of a family squanders thousands on pompous extravagances because his daughter is going to be married, he only does it to show that he can do it; and when an elderly lady frequents every amusement that she would laugh at her grand-daughters for finding delightful, she does so only to prove that nothing of the sort would be complete without her.

Now, this desire to inspire respect, or at all events to be of consequence in the eyes of our fellow creatures, which the prosperous classes of society exhibit in so extreme a degree, is not only a universal instinct of human nature, but it is also a useful impulse, urging men to a great deal of active exertion. There is no doubt that the gratified vanity which results from the respect paid to distinguished public services, or conspicuous talent, or valuable exertions of any sort, is one of the just and appropriate rewards which great and good men have a right to enjoy in due measure. Those who are conscious of deserving, even if they do not obtain, a great deal of respect for their individual qualities, can, however, generally dispense with trying to obtain it by a dazzling expenditure of money. But why should mediocre people, who have nothing else to be proud of, not be proud of being rich, as long as their fellow creatures choose to admire them for it? And why should not the pleasures of pomposity be permitted to be a motive for making a fortune with men whose want of youth or whose want of education deprives them of all chance of enjoyment in the more simple or in the more æsthetic pleasures? We see no reason at all, unless it can be shown that the prodigal expenditure of money is productive of more evil than good. To arrive at any rational conclusion on this point, it appears to us necessary to draw a line of distinction between different classes of rich people.

The enjoyment of pomp and splendour, the enjoyment of irresponsibility and of careless self-indulgence, are among the greatest enjoyments of human life to most people, and it would certainly be unwise for society to lose the motive-power that exists in the desire for these. But it is to energy and self-denial that they are the appropriate rewards; they should be used by society to stimulate men to make and to save great fortunes. The *parvenu*, the self-made man, should be allowed to flaunt his wealth in other men's eyes without being thought ridiculous, because his wealth is the outward sign of exertion and self-control. Public morality need not demand of him to be modest and restrained in his pleasures (so long as they are not wrong in themselves), for the sight of them is not calculated to arouse envy and repining in less fortunate people, but, on the contrary, is an inducement to activity and work. It is so certain a principle in political economy that the accumulation of capital is beneficial to society at large, that society ought to grant to the self-made millionaire the fullest license in the expenditure of his income. The indulgence of fantastic caprice, of senseless ostentation, of

useless glitter, or of sybaritish comfort may fairly be left to such a man, because they are all things the chief evil of which consists in the mere absence of good; and the man who has worked hard, and succeeded already in producing a great good to the world, has in return a right to the indulgence of his personal whims, wherever they are not themselves productive of more mischief than his exertions have been productive of good. Now the greatest harm done to the moral notions of society by the ostentation of riches will at once cease if it is looked upon as the appropriate reward of a specific talent—that of money-getting. The habit of so considering it will turn into a channel of useful exertion all the emotions of envy, and will direct to a just object all the respect which the display of great wealth is naturally calculated to excite.

Wealth itself deserves no respect, but the energy which can amass it, and the self-control which can abstain from spending it until its mere revenues amount to an enormous sum, are so useful to the world, that he who has given proof of these qualities is not called upon to show, in addition, philosophical judgment, artistic tastes, or philanthropical feelings in his expenditure.

But the case is totally different with hereditary wealth. That which has been bestowed upon a man without any merit of his own is not a fit subject for irresponsible caprice. If he has not shown qualities useful to the public in acquiring his money, he is bound to show them in distributing it. The acceptance of a great fortune, whether from gift or inheritance is the incurring of a great responsibility, and is pre-eminently so where that fortune is the accompaniment of a social rank deliberately privileged by society, and borne by the possessor as part of a useful political institution.

A member of an aristocracy like the aristocracy of England is morally bound to use his station and his pecuniary means for what he believes to be useful public objects, and not for the gratification of personal caprice. To rival with the grandees of the Stock-Exchange in mad prodigality, is to take the reward of industry without having worked, and to clutch at the compensation for privations without having suffered. The task of the inheritor of a great fortune begins where that of the man who has earned it ends. The labour which the one has had to bestow on obtaining money without trenching on the rights of his fellow creatures, the other ought to use in expending it without injustice, partiality, or immoral example. Whatever the hereditary rich man spends, he ought to spend on a deliberate plan which will bear statement and examination. What he reserves to himself for the gratification of his personal inclinations should be looked upon as the return for his honest exertions in acquitting himself of his duties. What his plan should be, what his duties really are, is a large branch of morality, and will admit of useful discussion on innumerable points. We have only attempted here to indicate that the question presents itself at the very threshold of social life, and cannot be ignored by any one who would attempt to go far in the consideration of our conventional system. H. T.

"UNTO THE GREEKS FOOLISHNESS."

NOTHING gives a clearer glimpse of the spirit, or latent philosophy, of the age—the philosophy from which the most important social phenomena of life may be traced—than the occasional dogmatism of able and educated men. Dogmatism is so much out of fashion, it is considered to afford so strong a presumption of obtuseness or immaturity of intellect, or defect of cultivation, that when it does occur in a quarter apparently exempt from such an explanation, it suggests a habit of thought too universal to have been questioned. The fact is, that even the most thoughtful and logical minds, unless they belong to professed philosophers, do not go beyond a certain depth for first principles. Some things must be assumed, unless life is spent in examining the truth of the assumptions. This it is which makes philosophy

a vocation infinitely more important to mankind than all the others. Every profound idea, true or false (and the well of truth is so deep that a partially false idea may, nevertheless, be a profound one), once it is rooted in the belief of men, instantly vegetates, and is soon concealed from view by its own superincumbent realizations. A few generations, and its results are fixed in the institutions, the policy, even in the manners and social habits of a nation. Nothing but the same originating power of philosophy or religion (which are the same in relation to the truths discovered, though differing in the means of discovery) can upheave the weight which a fundamental lie will bear for ages in this world before its own internal corruption explodes all that rests upon it. That all lies must eventually perish, in the latter, if not in the former way, is one of those eternal "facts" which it is the great service of Mr. Carlyle to have proclaimed, and which, as appealing to the highest principle of faith in man, require no demonstration. But the example of China, of India, and perhaps of Africa, and the so-called inferior races, where progress has been for ages arrested by the petrification of a false philosophy, cannot but lend an anxious and unceasing interest to the struggles of original thought with the *vis inertia* of established principles.

Such a warfare it is that has long been carried on by Mr. Carlyle with the prevalent systems of political and social philosophy. But the fundamental point of opposition in which he stands to his age, and that from which all other differences are really deducible, is on the old controversy of the *summum bonum* or the end of life. Mr. Carlyle is never so vehement, never so sarcastic, as when he comes across the "greatest happiness of the greatest number" principle. Yet that principle, though not perhaps so often avowed as in the days of Jeremy Bentham, is at the root of all the tendencies, political, moral, and philanthropic, of the day. "The greatest happiness of the greatest number" is Democracy; for the latter assumes the individual well-being of the community as the supreme end of political institutions. It is political economy; for this regards the accumulation of national wealth as the first maxim of the State, and will allow of no laws, no restrictions, which interfere with that one thing needful. It is our morality; for it places before our eyes as the goal of existence, happiness—composed of as many elements as you please, but still something personal, something to be enjoyed, and as it were tasted, by the individual in his own individuality. In metaphysics, the corresponding theory is Materialism, the system founded by Locke, now universally rejected by metaphysicians, but still vital in its practical results. Against the principle of happiness as the end of life, Mr. Carlyle places the principle of labour or activity. So did Goethe, so did Fichte; but of that no matter. Mr. Carlyle is quite strong enough to stand by himself. What is noticeable here is an instance of that critical dogmatism of which we spoke above. In the last number of the *Saturday Review*, the writer having got hold of one of the noblest passages in "Sartor Resartus" (and which, because he happens not to like Mr. Carlyle's style, he describes as "furious literary gesticulation," &c.), in which the author illustrates the above view, proceeds to demolish the theory in a few lines which show that he has never understood it. Seizing upon the "admission" that the first of the two men whom Mr. Carlyle honours "toils for the altogether indispensable—for daily bread," the writer says—"Daily bread," then, is, after all, the end, not labour. Of course, daily bread may be defined with what elasticity we please. . . . But still, in either case, the bread will be the end, and the labour required to obtain it only the means towards that end. When, therefore, on the road towards the end—bread—men stop short and worship the means—labour—all we can say is, that for a time they have lost their understandings." It really would have been better if the critic had made a proper and diligent use of his own, no doubt excellent, understanding, before coming to the conclusion that Mr. Carlyle and his school have lost theirs. Our object is not now to vindicate the consistency of the particular passage of "Sartor Resartus" selected by the *Saturday Reviewer* as an exposition of the principle in question. Nevertheless it is consistent; and the reviewer, in his ignorance of the theory he was contemning, has really misunderstood Mr. Carlyle's plain meaning. It will be evident from the context of the passage, that the "daily bread" there spoken of is not the remuneration of the labourer, but the product of his work; what the labourer wins *for us*, and not what he

THE READER.

1 JULY, 1865.

wins for himself. He "conquers the earth," and therefore Mr. Carlyle honours him—just as the second is honoured because he "conquers heaven for us." That this is (as will be pointed out immediately) the same thing as to say that "labour is the end," the reviewer has plainly not the remotest conception. But his strictures are peculiarly valuable to us here, as bringing out, in very clear relief, the underlying assumption of the prevailing habits of thought which it was the constant object of Mr. Carlyle to revolutionize. There are obviously two results of labour—the product itself, and the remuneration or price which the product brings to the labourer. Now, to the labourer himself, his work and its product are absolutely the same. The latter—the thing produced (we speak, of course, only of the form, not of the material)—is merely the embodiment of the former—the toil and skill of the labourer. You cannot, even in thought, separate the act of working from the product of work. It may be said that the conception of a work of art is not the same as the work of art (the picture or the statue, for example) itself. But this is to overlook the fact that there are here two quite distinct species of labour. The conception is itself the first half of the work, and it is indistinguishable from the mental labour from which it springs—just as the realization of that conception is, in addition, the embodiment of physical skill and labour. This explained, we are face to face with the grand distinction between the Carlylese and the dominant philosophy, which is also the philosophy of the *Saturday Review*. The latter says the end of life is remuneration,—obviously another word for happiness. Opposed to this is the principle that the end of life is activity, or art, in the comprehensive sense of the word. Now, we say that the latter is the truer as well as the nobler view of the vocation of man. No good work ever was yet, or ever will be, produced for the sake of the price. In every sphere of labour, the good workman is he who loves his work for the work's sake—who lives *for*, as well as *by*, his art. The former is the principle which animates shoddy contractors, advertising swindlers, and effect painters; it is the philosophy of universal competition as opposed to the philosophy which has its highest scientific expression in the pages of "Unto this Last." C. C. M.

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OBITUARY.

STAATSRATH VON KUPFFER, the Director of the Central Observatory at St. Petersburg, died on the 4th ult. in that city.

THE medical profession has sustained a loss, which will be severely felt, by the sudden death of Dr. Robert Ferguson, of King's College Hospital, at his residence, Ascot Cottage, near Windsor, on Sunday last, after an illness of only a few hours' duration. Dr. Ferguson attended Her Majesty in all her confinements as physician, was principal physician to King's College Hospital, and Professor of Midwifery at King's College. Dr. Ferguson was in his sixty-fifth year. His essay on Puerperal Fever, published in 1839, placed him at once in the foremost rank of writers on obstetrics.

MRS. SIGOURNEY, the well-known American writer, whose first production, entitled "Moral Power, in Prose and Verse," appeared, under her maiden name of Lydia Huntly, in 1815, when Anglo-American literature was comparatively in its infancy, died at her residence, in Hartford, Connecticut, on Sunday, the 11th ult., in her seventy-fourth year. The *New York Tribune* of the 13th of June, in mentioning her death, states that "her publications number nearly fifty volumes, many of which attained a very large circulation." As a poetess Mrs. Sigourney is much appreciated in America; and in this country her longest poem, in five cantos, entitled "Traits of the Aborigines of America," published in 1822, met with a favourable reception. In 1840, Mrs. Sigourney visited Europe, passing one summer entirely in England and Scotland, and on her return to America she published, in 1842, "Pleasant Memories of Pleasant Lands," an account of the countries visited, in prose and verse, which added greatly to her reputation. "Pocahontas," the most finished of her poems, was subsequently published at Boston. Amongst her other poetical effusions, "Zinzendorf," and "The Western Home," deserve more prominent mention. As a prose writer, Mrs. Sigourney is known as the author of "A Sketch of Connecticut, Forty Years Since," "Letters to Mothers," "Letters to Young Ladies," and "Letters to My Pupils, with Narrative and Biographical Sketches," published in 1851. Of her "Past Meridian," a third edition was published in 1857. Several of Mrs. Sigourney's works have been reprinted in England. In 1819, then in her twenty-eighth year, she married Mr. Sigourney, a gentleman of congenial tastes, an extensive dealer in hardware at Hartford, by whom she had two children, a daughter, married to the Rev. Francis Russell, of Geneva, New York, and a son, Andrew, whose death, a few years ago, is commemorated by his mother in her volume entitled "The Faded Hope," published in 1852. The *New York Tribune* states that Mrs. Sigourney made it a point to devote at least one-tenth of her income to charitable objects.

MR. GEORGE OFFOR'S LIBRARY.

MESSRS. SOTHEY, WILKINSON, and HODGE commenced selling the valuable library of the late Mr. George Offor on Tuesday last. The rarer volumes in the important collection of Bibles, for which the library was celebrated, brought considerable prices. Lot 155, Evangelia IV. Latina, MSS. on vellum, Sæc. X., sold for 18*l.* 5*s.*—156, Psalterium cum Hymnis et Calendario, a folio MS. on vellum, of the 13th century, with illuminations, and written by an English scribe, 29*l.*—160, A Latin Bible, with Jerome's prolegomena, on vellum, of the 11th century, with eighty-two miniatures, 16*l.* 16*s.*—162, A Latin Bible, on vellum, of the 14th century, presumed to have belonged to John Huss, from the signature "Joannis vvsz," 16*l.*—163, Jerome's Version of the Bible, a folio MS. on vellum, with the apocryphal Psalm CII., the victory over Goliath, and the rejected verse in Matthew xxiv. "Duo in lecto," 18*l.* 15*s.*—164, Biblia Sacra Latina, a beautiful manuscript on vellum, in a very distinct but small handwriting, ornamented with an immense number of capitals, illuminated in gold and colours, several of them containing elegant miniatures in the best style of early German ornamentation, splendidly bound in red velvet, elegantly embroidered with gold, having on obverse of cover a painting representing Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Duchess of Thuringen, relieving a cripple, covered with talc, and surrounded by a star formed of crystals, and on the reverse an antique ivory plaque, on which is carved a representation of the Holy Family, broad morocco joints, covered with gold tooling, watered silk linings, gilt edges, over which is an elegantly carved and perforated wainscot cover, lined with red silk, the whole being enclosed in a mahogany box, lettered like a book, folio, 63*l.*—165, Pistles and Gospels, with Homilies, having an alphabetical index prefixed. Manuscript on vellum (folio 33 deficient), ornamented with six miniatures and borders in gold and colours, bound in embroidered silk, protected by gilt silver edges and clasps, 4*to.* The version is very similar to Wiclif's, with merely a few verbal alterations. The first miniature represents various Saints singing, surrounded by a border, in which is depicted the Story of Jonas. The second illumination is David praying. The third miniature is a beautiful painting of the Madonna with the Child at the breast. The fourth painting is that of a Saint holding a book to a kneeling Monk. The fifth miniature (in the early English style) represents the Angel announcing the Resurrection of Jesus to the three Maries. The sixth painting, within an elegant flowered border, is a representation of the Madonna and Child by a Flemish artist. For this important manuscript Mr. Offor refused 300*l.*, offered by the late Mr. Lea Wilson, the well-known collector of Bibles and Testaments, 220*l.*—174, Biblia Sacra Latina, 2 vols. folio, printed at Basle, by Rodt and Richel (1470), 19*l.* 5*s.*—189, A Copy of Guyart de Moulins's translation of Petri Comestoris (dit Le Mangeur) Historia Scholastica Sacra (Bible Historiée), printed in Paris, by Verard (1498), 10*l.* 10*s.*—193, Portions of the New Testament, translated from the Greek into English by that noble and venerable martyr William Tyndale, who first published the New Testament in English in 1525, in his own handwriting, and accompanied by his own drawings in 1502. Manuscript, with twenty-seven drawings, supposed by Mr. Offor (see his long autograph account in front) to be the genuine production of W. Tyndale (the first sketch, "Christ Bound," is, however, by Parmegiano), illustrated with two portraits of Tyndale (India proof and coloured), a portrait of Henry VII., from the Basiologia, and a woodcut of Tyndale's Martyrdom, splendidly bound "in morocco, flexible boards and lined with morocco inside, hand tooled, with rich border in tooling, silk fly-leaves, &c., &c." (see C. Murton's bill inside), and fitted into an antique oak cover, elegantly carved with representations of Charity and Justice, in a box covered in russet, 31*l.*—198, five volumes of the Complutensian Polyglott, 30*l.*—241, The First Dutch Protestant Bible, translated by Jacob van Liesveldt, and published at Antwerp in 1526, 12*l.* 5*s.*—272, New Testament, Tyndale's Version with Prologues (L. W. 4, i.e. Lea Wilson's Catalogue, No. 4), black letter, on yellow paper, stained after printing, woodcuts excessively rare, but first title, Tyndale's Prefaces, and last leaf facsimiled, else good sound copy (6 in. by 3½), blue morocco, by C. Murton. Small 8vo, Antwerp, by Martin Emperour, 1534. On the fly-leaves of this copy Mr. Offor has various MS. memoranda, pointing out passages omitted or

added, &c. He also states, "An imperfect copy of this book was sold in Chr. Anderson's Library, April, 1852, for 116*l.*," 26*l.*—275, Myles Coverdale's First English Version of the Bible, printed at Zuerich, by Froschouer, in 1535, twenty-one leaves supplied in facsimile, 135*l.*—283, Tyndale's Version of the New Testament, very imperfect, but portion of an undescribed edition, 20*l.* 10*s.*—285, Another copy of Myles Coverdale's First English Bible, but dated 1536 instead of 1535, imperfect, having twenty-six leaves and the maps supplied in facsimile, 71*l.*—287, Tyndale's New Testament of 1536, made up out of the three editions of that date, and having several leaves supplied in MS., 26*l.*—289, One of the other editions of the same date, imperfect, 17*l.* 10*s.*—290, Another edition of the same date, from the standing types, with corrections, 21*l.*—291, An imperfect copy of Nycolson's (quarto) Southwarke edition of Myles Coverdale's English Bible of 1537, 81*l.*—292, An imperfect copy of the English Bible of 1537, known as Matthew's (Tyndale's translation revised by John Rogers, the first martyr in Mary's reign), 61*l.*—293, An imperfect copy of Nycolson's (folio) Southwarke edition of Coverdale's Bible, 54*l.*—297, Imperfect copy of Bishop Bonner's Paris edition of 1538 of Coverdale's New Testament, in 8vo, 41*l.*—307, A copy of "The Great or Cromwell's Bible," begun in Paris and finished by Grafton and Whitchurch in 1539, slightly imperfect, 39*l.* 10*s.*—308, A slightly imperfect copy of "Cranmer's," more properly "Cromwell's Coverdale's," second edition of the Bible, 1540, 44*l.*—310, A slightly imperfect copy of Archbishop Cranmer's First Edition of the Bible, Whitchurch, 1540, 42*l.*—341, Mr. Offor's unique copy of the New Testament, printed in small 8vo, by Whitchurch, in 1547, 215*l.*—365, A slightly imperfect copy of Froschouer's quarto Coverdale's Bible of 1550, 63*l.*—393, A slightly imperfect copy of the very rare pocket edition of Tyndale's New Testament, printed by Richard Jugge (1553), 27*l.*—427, An undescribed pocket edition of the same, from the same press (1561), 36*l.*

The two days' sale produced 2,901*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, and on Thursday the further dispersion of the collection was unfortunately put an end to by the calamitous fire which destroyed the premises of the auctioneers early on that morning, of which mention is made in our columns of Miscellaneous.

MISCELLANEA.

A TELEGRAM has been received from Cairo, announcing the receipt of letters from Mr. Baker, the celebrated African traveller, dated Khartoum, May 18. Mr. Baker is in perfect health, and reports that the Lutanigè Lake, instead of being, as was supposed, a mere backwater, is a large and independent feeder of the Nile.

AFTER much vacillation, attended with considerable inconvenience to the persons interested, the officials to whom the laying down of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable is entrusted, have decided that no "unauthorised" account of that event shall, so far as they can prevent it, appear in the public prints. The various journals have been informed, we hear, that no representative of the press can be allowed a passage on board the Great Eastern during her approaching voyage, but that a gentleman, engaged by the company, will supply to the papers a copy of his notes. The decision is unsatisfactory enough to those who are interested in the proper management of the undertaking. There does not seem to be a single good reason in its favour, while a score of bad ones will occur to everybody. The narrative will now, almost necessarily, be, however well written, a long advertisement, either indiscriminately eulogistic or studiously apologetic. We protest against this novel method of Telegraphic Manipulation.

THE Albert Gold Medal of the Society of Arts, founded as a memorial of his Royal Highness the late President of the Society, has been awarded this year to his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French, for distinguished merit in promoting in many ways, by his personal exertions, the international progress of arts, manufactures, and commerce, the proofs of which are afforded by his judicious patronage of Art, his enlightened commercial policy, and especially by the abolition of passports in favour of British subjects. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the President, has himself communicated this decision to the Emperor, by whom it has been most graciously received.

SINCE the close of the American civil war we have met with an extremely large number of

people who "always thought the North would win;" we also find a goodly number who "always thought that the North was right." Among the latter, the last man we should have expected to meet is Lord Brougham. Yet his lordship is now astonished at the utterly groundless reports which injudicious friends of the Northern party have propagated of him, as if he had taken the part of the slavetraders and slavemongers of the South. He now says that he always thought the conduct of the United States Government perfect upon the subject of slavery. The Federalists here, with some effect, repeat his lordship's many utterances on the subject. In 1863, when presiding over the meeting of the Social Science Association at Edinburgh, he denounced the North for putting forth the "hollow pretext" of making war against slavery. He quoted with approval the Bishop of Oxford's declaration, that the Free States cared as little for the liberty of the black as for the freedom of the white. He represented the people as glorying in the slaughter of the war, from the excess of their national vanity; he represented them as meanly crouching under the worst of despotisms from a rabid desire for the continuation of war for its own sake; and he described them as burning with extravagant hate against England. In 1864 he described the Emancipation edict as a mere after-thought—a belligerent measure, which showed that its authors cared no more for the freedom of the black than the white; and now, he said, "it has been reserved for the later act of the tragedy to see that Government, when destitute of other troops, drive herds of the unhappy negroes to slaughter with no more remorse than sportsmen feel in clearing a preserve." The Government thus assailed as acting an odious and barbarous part was that Government of the United States the conduct of which he now asserts has been perfect on the subject of slavery.

A RETURN has been published during the week of the plans and sections of the metalliferous mines of the United Kingdom, which are deposited in the Mining Record Office, with a statement of the dates to which the drawings have been completed, distinguishing those which are abandoned from those which are at work. The value of these documents is greatly enhanced, Mr. Robert Hunt observes, by the statistical records of nearly all the mines in this country, which are also carefully preserved.

A NATIONAL Portrait Exhibition is to be held next year, under the management of the Committee of Council on Education, assisted by the advice of the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery and that of other noblemen and gentlemen. The Earl of Derby, with whom the idea appears to have originated, would admit either portraits of eminent men, though by inferior or unknown artists, or "portraits by eminent artists, though of obscure or unknown individuals." This latter provision does not meet with general assent. A "National Portrait Exhibition" ought not to be half filled with nobodies.

ON Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan gave the first of two readings at Apsley-house. The audience, among which was H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, was evidently greatly pleased with the very striking manner in which the verses of Hood, Tennyson, and Longfellow were declaimed by Mr. Wigan. The recital, or rather acting, by Mr. and Mrs. Wigan, of a passage from "The Rivals" almost excited the enthusiasm of the aristocratic audience. Next Wednesday the second reading will take place, and will consist of a selection from the "Midsummer Night's Dream."

MR. H. J. RAYMOND is preparing for immediate publication "The Life and State Papers of the Late President Lincoln," including a history of his administration. According to the *New York Tribune*, every speech, address, message, proclamation, letter, &c., known to have emanated from President Lincoln's pen, as well as his debates with Douglas, Cooper Institute speech, &c., is incorporated in this volume. It is to be prefaced with an account of the early life and career to the Presidency, and illustrated by an accurate steel portrait of Mr. Lincoln by Ritchie; his early home in Kentucky, and twelve other pertinent illustrations. A chapter of personal reminiscences and anecdotes, by F. B. Carpenter, will make a part of the work.

IN view of the much-discussed question of the convict system in Ireland, an official report, just published, of the conduct of released convicts in the Dublin district during the last twelve months, deserves a notice. The "Inspector" of these men says that the training they

1 JULY, 1865.

receive in the city and county gaols fits them for an honest course, and the system of supervision to which every discharged prisoner is subject is beneficial in its effects, though the greatest amount of prudence is required. His bi-monthly visitation report gives the detailed particulars of each released convict residing within his district, so that no man can pursue a criminal course with impunity, for his detection is prompt and certain, nor can any discharged prisoner enter the city or county gaols again without the knowledge of the authorities. Even the most hardened prisoners are now impressed with the belief that the age of short sentences has passed away, and this in itself exerts a salutary influence upon them. "The certainty of prompt detection, immediate identification, sure and speedy conviction, and long and laborious imprisonment, cannot fail to bring about, in the course of five years hence, most happy and desirable changes in the criminal community." We learn also from the same report, that convicts released on licence from English prisons are beginning to show themselves in the Dublin district. On their arrival they are immediately placed under the inspector's supervision, entered on a separate visitation report, which is submitted on the usual form, twice in each month, to the directors of the prisons in Ireland.

A FEW literary men and artists met, the other day, by invitation, at Painters' Hall, in the City, to view a large landscape in oils by Aggas, whom Walpole, in his "Anecdotes of Painting," and Graham, in "The School of Painting," mention as the scene-painter at the first Drury Lane Theatre (1662), at which, it is believed, scenes, as now used on the stage, were first introduced in this country. Mr. Frederick Guest Tomlins, the Clerk to the Company, a sound dramatic archaeologist, read a paper on the subject, in which he showed, from opening passages in the scenes of Shakespeare and other Elizabethan playwrights, that the locality of the scene is generally announced by words placed in the player's mouth by the author, evidencing that the stage itself did not at that time convey that idea by scenic representation. Above the picture in Painters' Hall is placed the following inscription on a panel, the sides of which are decorated with emblematical figures of children, the one in the right-hand corner seated beside a paint-pot, with a large brush for painting in distemper, which would seem to illustrate the word, *Peniculus*.

ROBERTUS AGGAS
PICTOR PENICULARIUS
EX PATRE PENICULARIO
HANC TABULAM SUBNEXAM
PINXIT ET POSUIT
ANNO MDCLXXIX.

The word *Peniculus* is rendered "a plaisterer" in Bishop Cooper's "Thesaurus Linguae Romanae et Britannicae," printed in 1584, and has probably, like *Peniculus*, a brush, *penis* in its earliest signification—"caudam antiqui penem vocabant," says Cicero—for its root, because brushes were made from the tails of horses and oxen. Mr. Tomlins suggests that the word was used emphatically to point out that Aggas was not commonly a painter in oil, and therefore severe criticism was to be deprecated. The picture, however, is a good one of its class; and amongst places which an artist should visit in London, No. 9 Little Trinity Lane, Painters' Hall, is by no means one of the least interesting.

EARLY on Thursday morning, about a quarter to four o'clock, the well-known auction-rooms of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge were discovered to be on fire, and in a very short period the entire building was one mass of flames, and property to the value of upwards of 60,000*l.* destroyed, including the valuable libraries of the Earl of Charlemont and the late Baron von Humboldt, the remaining nine days' sale of that of the late Mr. Offor, and several other equally choice collections, the premises being literally full of valuable property entrusted to the auctioneers for sale at the time of the outbreak. The fire appears to have originated outside the premises, where a heap of carpenters' shavings had been allowed to accumulate during the repairs of some buildings which adjoin Messrs. Sotheby's rooms at the rear. The business of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge will for the present be carried on at their Fine Art Gallery, adjoining the Lyceum Theatre, in Wellington-street.

THE late "musical splurge," as the New York papers call it, at Boston, seems to have roused the ire of the writers of the former city. The "autocrat at the breakfast table" heard one of his company say: "Boston State House is the hub of the solar system. You couldn't pry

that out of a Boston man if you had the iron of all creation straightened out for a crowbar." The New York people say that though the late festival took place at Boston, it was New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other cities, that furnished the principal singers and players. "There is a story told of a man who, upon being asked whether he could play a certain piece, replied that he could not, but he had an excellent musical box that could. This is the case with Boston. If she cannot get up a grand musical festival on her own material, she has several musical boxes in other cities that can, and she has availed herself of them to some purpose on the occasion of the late grand splurge." Amongst a good deal of banter of the same sort, we find the following, which is amusing: "Washington is known as the city of magnificent distances. New York is acknowledged to be the great emporium—the capital, the heart, the brain of the country. Philadelphia is the city, *par excellence*, of brotherly love and somnambulism. Baltimore is the Monumental City; Cincinnati, the Queen of the West, and New Orleans, the Sovereign of the Gulf; but Boston is essentially the city of great pretensions. Boston makes occasional flourishes; but it is for the most part upon the reputation of exotics. It has a Bunker-hill monument, which took nearly a century to erect, and which was ultimately danced into completion by Fanny Ellsler. It has a Faneuil Hall of historic memory now almost fallen into desuetude, whose doors were once closed against Daniel Webster—the greatest New England statesman and orator—because his genius was too great and broad to be compressed within the narrow compass of Bostonian ideas. It has its famous Brattle-square Church, with a revolutionary cannon ball inserted in the wall. An inter-mural park, which, with native modesty, it calls a "Common," which not many years ago was the common pasturage of Athenian cows, endowed, of course, with aspirations far above the ordinary bovine tribe. Its suburbs are delightful—and here nature has been bountiful to the "Hub;" but its streets furnish an apt illustration of the narrow and crooked ways of life. Then it has an organ—the Alpha and Omega of Boston pride, the jewel of its soul; but the instrument was built in Germany, and fit unfortunately happens that they have no one to play it. Boston has won the elephant; but it does not know what to do with him. When the great powers of the organ have to be demonstrated, they send to New York for an organist, and we are always ready to supply the demand."

THE Clergy Club and Hotel Company held a meeting on Monday, to appoint a committee, and applications from clergymen and laymen for admission to the club are invited. Among the twenty-six clergymen who are to be proposed as the committee, together with the directors, we observed the Dean of Armagh, the Archdeacons of St. David's, Oxford, Totnes, and Coventry, and two or three prebendaries.

COPIES of three new chromo-lithographs will shortly be brought out by the Arundel Society—viz., "St. Peter Delivered from Prison," after Raphael; "Nativity of the Virgin," after A. Del Sarto; and "The Annunciation," after Fra Bartolommeo.

THE law respecting single insane patients seems to be actively enforced by the Commissioners of Lunacy. It cannot be too widely known, that over all who are so afflicted, no matter how apparently quiet, inoffensive, and harmless, if they be placed to reside where profit is derived from the charge of them, elsewhere than in houses licensed for the purpose, the Legislature has thrown the protection of the lunacy laws, by rendering amenable to punishment every one who for hire receives such patients, or who, having received them while yet of sound mind, continues to retain them after they have become incapable of being trusted with the management of themselves or their affairs. The Commissioners of Lunacy, in a report issued during the week, mention numerous cases which have come to their knowledge. In most, they were satisfied with the future protection secured to the patients, and took no action regarding the past, although one gentleman, living in the town of Shrewsbury, appeared to have been thus illegally detained as a single patient for twenty-five years; another, in various lodgings near London, for twenty years; and three others for ten, seven, and six, respectively, in various parts of England; while one lady had been similarly kept for more than seven years in the cottage of a nurse in the neighbourhood of

London; another for thirteen years; and others for as many as six and twelve years; also in places near the metropolis. The Commissioners protest, that in all future cases they will proceed by indictment against the persons offending.

THE Royal Botanic Society hold their last general exhibition of plants, flowers, and fruit, this season, on Wednesday next.

ONE of the latest Yankee "notions" of which we have heard, is that of a Dr. Dio Lewis, the principal of what we may term a Hygienic Educational Seminary for Young Ladies, at Lexington, Massachusetts, near Boston, wherein Theodore D. Weld is one of his associates. We hear that, at a recent closing examination at this seminary, one of the exercises (if we may so characterize it) consisted of a careful measurement of the waists of the pupils respectively, and a comparison of the result in each instance with a record preserved of a similar measurement at the opening of the term, "showing an average net gain of 2½ inches in circumference since the 1st of October last." Some girls who entered upon the term invalids had meantime been trained to walk ten miles without fatigue; while their intellectual progress had kept full pace with their physical. A veteran graduate of Harvard declared that he had never listened to Latin recitations at that renowned University equal to those of the girls at Lexington.

MR. R. W. EMERSON has thus expressed himself concerning a volume of the scraps of humour and wise sayings of the late President Lincoln which is about to be published in America: "He [Abraham Lincoln] is the author of a multitude of good sayings, so disguised as pleasantries, that it is certain they had no reputation at first but as jests; and only later, by the very acceptance and adoption they find in the mouths of millions, turn out to be the wisdom of the hour. I am sure, if this man had ruled in a period of less facility of printing, he would have become mythological in a very few years, like Æsop or Pilpay, or one of the Seven Wise Masters, by his fables and proverbs. But the weight and penetration of many passages in his letters, messages, and speeches, hidden now by the very closeness of their application to the moment, are destined hereafter to a wide fame. What pregnant definitions; what unerring common sense; what foresight; and, on great occasions, what lofty, and, more than national, what humane tone!"

A FEW days ago the ruins of the Priory of St. Augustine, situated in the quiet village of Blythburgh, Suffolk, fell suddenly to the ground, greatly to the regret of the many antiquaries to whom the place is known. Mr. R. N. Phipson, of Norwich, protests that the disaster ought not to have happened. "It was [he says] an exceedingly interesting ruin of a College of Black Canons founded during the reign of Henry I., and had the hon. baronet who is lord of the manor, and holds the property, expended but a few pounds about it, its preservation might have been insured for some generations. The ruins at Creaque Abbey, Norfolk, were in a far more dangerous state last year than Blythburgh, but the authorities of Christ's College, Cambridge, to whom the estate belongs, by a timely outlay of less than 100*l.*, have secured it from falling for several years—certainly for the rest of this century."

THE *New York Herald*, not without some cause, vaunts the enterprise with which its arrangements for supplying news of the late war were conducted. "During the last four years," says the *Herald*, "we have employed between thirty and forty, and sometimes more, war correspondents, including the army and navy, for the *Herald*. They have been attached to army corps, departments, head-quarters, and at every point on sea or land where the services of a special correspondent could be of advantage to the public. Our army correspondents have, on an average, used up or had captured one or two valuable horses each. The whole cost of this war correspondence establishment reached during the rebellion the sum of nearly half a million of dollars."

AMONG the announcements of the day is one of an "International Polyglot Travelling Institution," young gentlemen of all nations admitted. The school "will be continually travelling, under the superintendence of a superior person. Each language will be taught in the country where it is spoken with the greatest purity. Towns, monuments, and museums, will be carefully and scientifically inspected." The next season (October, 1865, to August, 1866) is to be devoted to France. The reference for the United King-

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SCIENCE.

THERMO-ELECTRIC BATTERIES.

WHEN Seebeck, in 1822, discovered that an electric current was generated by heating the junction of two dissimilar metals, he created a new branch of electrical science, which, though of the highest theoretical and practical importance, has not as yet yielded any of those direct advantages it ought, apparently, at once to have produced. Thermo-electricity was simply a vast abstract addition to our knowledge without practical value, until Nobili constructed the first thermo-electric pile, which, associated with a galvanometer, proved to be a thermometer of wonderful delicacy. Melloni's successful application of this instrument to the investigation of radiant heat, raised the secondary use of the pile to so high a degree, that its primary value as a source of dynamic-electricity appears soon to have been lost sight of.

Attention has, however, of late been drawn to this matter on the Continent. Professor Bunsen, not long since, showed that the current from a thermo-electric pair might be made equal to $\frac{1}{10}$ th of a Daniell's cell, by using, instead of bismuth and antimony couples, copper pyrites combined with copper, or pyrosulphite combined with copper or platinum. Quite recently, Professor Stefan has tried various other minerals, and obtained the highest power by making use of granular sulphide of lead for the positive element, and copper pyrites for the negative. The electro-motive force of a single pair of this combination, compared with one of Daniell's cells, is as 1 to 5.5, Bunsen's best arrangement being as 1 to 9.7, and a combination discovered by Marcus, which we shall next describe, being as 1 to 18. The feeble conducting power of the minerals used by Professor Stefan will, we fear, preclude their practical use. This is not so much the case with Bunsen's combination, ten of whose pairs formed into a battery give, it is stated, all the actions of a Daniell's cell having an effective copper surface of 14 square centimetres in area.

The thermo-electric pile has so long been regarded as an originator of the feeblest electrical currents, that the report of a thermo-electric spark having been obtained in Austria aroused the interest of scientific men. The discoverer of this new thermo-pile, or more properly battery, was one Marcus, of Vienna, who for some time published no account of its construction. To the credit of the Austrian Academy, a sum of 2,500 florins was awarded to M. Marcus for his discovery, on the condition, we understand, that he should publish the manner in which his pile was made. This was done by a paper printed in the Transactions of the Vienna Academy, No. 8, 1865, which was translated in last month's *Philosophical Magazine*.

The endeavour of M. Marcus was to construct a powerful thermo-electric battery, the metals composing which should not be costly or melt at too low a temperature. The ordinary bismuth and antimony pile does not satisfy these conditions, and the fact that the electro-motive force of alloys is that of its highest element, led to the construction of piles made of various alloys, which were remarkably successful. A very good alloy was found to be, for the positive metal:—

Ten parts of Copper,
Six " Zinc,
Six " Nickel,

And one part of Cobalt was an improvement ;
And for the negative metal :—

Twelve parts of Antimony,
Five " Zinc,
One part of Bismuth.

The elements of the battery were about 7 inches long, 7 lines broad, and half a line thick ; these were screwed together, and so arranged that their lower junctions could be highly heated by a row of gas jets, whilst the upper were cooled by a current of water : to prevent any passage of electricity through the water, the latter junctions were insulated by a coating of soluble glass. Our readers are, of course, aware that the thermo-electric current is due to a difference in temperature between the two opposite faces of the pile, hence the use of cold as well as heat.

The electro-motive force of one of these elements thus heated and cooled was equal to $\frac{1}{3}$ th of that of a Bunsen's cell. Six such elements are sufficient to decompose acidulated water ; thirty caused an electro-magnet to lift 150 pounds ; and 125 decomposed water at the rate of 25 cubic centimetres of the mixed gases per minute, and melted a platinum wire half a millim. in thickness.

dom is a colonel, whose address is "Ballinvarig, Youghal, County Cork, Ireland."

AMERICANS are visiting Europe this year in unprecedented numbers ; and though there are seven trading steam-ship lines, which will shortly, it is said, give the New Yorkers two boats a day each way, the vessels still seem to be crowded. The seven lines referred to are owned entirely by European companies : they are the Cunard line, the Inman line, the General Transatlantic Steamship Company, the National Steam Navigation Company, the Anchor Line of Steam Packets, the Hamburg American Packet Company, and the North German Lloyd Steamship Company. Since the Collins line was compelled to withdraw by reason of a lack of support, but few attempts have been made by American capitalists to establish a transatlantic line of steam packets, and those faint endeavours have always come to nothing. It is now proposed to take even the carrying trade of the South out of their hands.

WE understand that Mr. Cox, M.P., has abandoned the action for libel which it was lately stated, to the general amusement, he had commenced against the proprietors of *Punch*.

A PROSPECTUS has been issued at Havre for the establishment of a company, with a capital of eight millions of francs, for the transport of cotton from America.

MESSRS. MOXON will publish in future, at Mr. Tupper's request, the whole of his poetical works.

"THE Prince's Progress, and other Poems," by Christina G. Rossetti, will be published early in the month by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. They have also nearly ready Professor Masson's edition of the poetical works of Milton, and a selection of poetry for the use of parochial schools and libraries, by the editor of "Rays of Sunlight for Dark Days," under the title of "Words from the Poets."

MESSRS. JACKSON, WALFORD, and HODDER announce "The Sixth Work on the Prisoner Visited," by Mrs. Meredith, author of "The Lacemakers ;" a new story for the working classes, by Mrs. Ellis, entitled, "Share and Share Alike ;" and "Childhood in India," by the Wife of an Officer late in H. M.'s service.

MESSRS. BLACKWOOD AND SONS have in the press a uniform edition of Captain Sherard Osborn's works, in three volumes : Vol. I., "Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal," and "The Career, Last Voyage, and Fate of Sir John Franklin ;" Vol. II., "The Discovery of a North-West Passage by Her Majesty's Ship Investigator, Captain R. M'Clure, During the Years 1850—54 ;" and Vol. III., "A Cruise in Japanese Waters," "Quedah, or Stray Leaves from a Journal in Malayan Waters," "The Fight of the Peiho, in 1859 ;"—"A Dictionary of British-Indian Dates," being a Compendium of all the Dates Essential to the Study of the History of British Rule in India, Legal, Historical, and Biographical. Intended for Students about to Face Examinations for the Indian Services ;—"Fragments from the Early History of Tain," by the Rev. Wm. Taylor, A.M. ;—"Sermons and Lectures," by the late Rev. John Park, D.D., Minister of St. Andrew's ;—"Etoniana, Ancient and Modern ;" originally published in *Blackwood's Magazine* ;—"The History of Scotland, from Agricola's Invasion to the Revolution of 1688 ;" by John Hill Burton ;—"The Operations of War Explained and Illustrated," by Colonel E. B. Hamley, R.A. ;—"The Handy Horse-Book, or Practical Instructions on Riding, Driving, and the General Care and Management of Horses," by a Cavalry Officer ;—"The Iliad of Homer, Translated into English Verse in the Spenserian Stanza," by Philip Stanhope Worsley, M.A., Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Uniform with the "Odyssey," translated by the same.

THE *Grenzboten*, No. 25, contains "Altjüdische Romane ;" the *Morgenblatt für gebildete Leser*, No. 25, besides the conclusion of "Lorenz Sterne," has a paper on "The Pyrenees and their Explorers, Tourists, and Baths ;" the *Magazin für die Literatur des Auslandes*, No. 25, "Passavant and Herman Grimm on Raphael's School of Athens," "Die Dante-Feier in Berlin," and "Deutsche Früchte aus England ;" the *Europa*, No. 26, "Die Schlussscene bei Waterloo" and "The Isle of Wight ;" the *Ausland*, No. 24, "Rénan upon the more recent Excavations of M. Mariette in Egypt," "Duveyrier's Physical Description of Sahara," "The Vines and Wine-districts of Portugal," and "Calcutta ;" and the *Literarisches Centralblatt*, No. 26, a review of Soetbeer's German translation of Mill's Principles of Political Economy.

The conversion of heat into electricity was strikingly shown by the fact that the water used for cooling the upper junctions of the couples was much more rapidly warmed when the circuit was broken than when closed. M. Marcus stated to the Academy that he had constructed a furnace, consuming 240 pounds of coal per day, intended to heat 768 elements, whose electro-motive force would be equivalent to thirty cells of Bunsen's battery.

Professor Wheatstone has recently constructed a powerful thermo-electric battery, to which we will now allude, on the same principle. The battery, the effects of which were shown last week by Professor Wheatstone to a select circle of friends, is composed of sixty elements. In making it an interesting and important fact observed by Marcus was confirmed—namely, that the power of the battery is greatly increased by repeatedly re-melting the alloy composing the bars. This is probably due to the gradual breaking down of crystalline structure by fusion. Connecting the terminals of this battery, excited as Marcus's, a brilliant spark was obtained, and about half an inch of fine platinum wire when interposed was raised to incandescence and fused ; water was decomposed, and a penny electro-plated with silver in a few seconds, whilst an electro-magnet was made to lift upwards of a hundred weight and a-half. Bright sparks were obtained from the primary and secondary terminals of a Ruhmkorff coil connected with the battery. In fact, all the effects obtained from a small voltaic combination were reproduced with ease by this thermo-electric battery, the electro-motive force of which was carefully measured and found nearly equal to two of Daniell's cells.

But long ago Professor Wheatstone experimented upon the thermo-pile. Many will doubtless be surprised to hear that so early as 1837 he obtained by the aid of an induction coil introduced into the circuit, nearly all the effects we have related as now produced by the thermo-battery alone. The description of these experiments was published in the *Philosophical Magazine*, for May, 1837. In this paper Professor Wheatstone first gives an account of some experiments that had then been recently made in Italy on the production of the thermo-electric spark, and afterwards he details subsequent corroborative experiments of his own on the subject. The Italian experiments were originally made by the Director of the Florence Museum, M. Antinori, who, it seems, had heard that a Professor Linari obtained a spark from the torpedo, by sending the electric current from that fish through a helix and electro-magnet. Antinori successfully applied the same means to the thermo-electric pile, and thus was the first to see the spark of a thermo-electric current. Professor Linari succeeded in repeating Antinori's experiment, and obtained additional results from a current generated by applying boiling water and ice to the extremities of a Nobili's pile of twenty-five elements. This current sent round a magnet, and through a coil of wire 505 feet long, gave a bright spark in open daylight. With a wire 8 feet long, simply coiled into helix, the spark was seen in the dark, and with a wire only 15 inches long, it was distinctly seen on breaking the circuit ; moreover, with a double pile the spark was obtained when the wire was only 8 inches long. This pile, thus exposed to a difference in temperature of only 180° Fahrenheit, was able to decompose water and precipitate metallic silver from the nitrate.

Professor Wheatstone, after hearing of these experiments, attempted to verify the principal result. The thermo-electric pile he employed consisted of thirty-three bismuth and antimony couples, one face being heated by a red-hot iron placed at a short distance, and the other kept cool by contact with ice. Between the poles of the pile was introduced an insulated spiral of copper ribbon, fifty feet in length. Contact was broken by means of a mercury cup, and whenever this took place "a small but distinct spark was visible even in daylight." The effect was then intensified by combining two piles, and the experiment was witnessed by Professors Faraday, Daniell, Henry, &c. This paper is closed by a reference to some thermo-electric experiments made by Professor Botto, of Turin, and published in the *Bibliothèque Universelle* for September, 1832. Professor Botto used a metallic chain, consisting of 120 pieces of platinum wire, each one inch in length, alternating with the same number of pieces of soft iron wire. This compound wire or chain was wound round a rule in such a manner that the joints were placed alternately at each side of the rule. Heated by a spirit-lamp, this simple pile generated a current which decomposed acidulated water.

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AFRICAN EXPLORATION.

MR. THOMAS BAINES, the author of "Travels in South-Western Africa," and well-known as a painter of African scenery and ethnological subjects, has, within the last few days, returned to this country, with about five hundred sketches, in water and oil, depicting the strange scenes among which he has so long been living. Mr. Baines travelled in the interior of South Africa as artist as far back as 1842, and accompanied the English troops in the Caffre War some years afterwards. He subsequently returned to England, and in 1855 was attached to Mr. Gregory's North-West Australian expedition, in the course of which he was repeatedly entrusted with separate command, and at its close received the thanks of the Colonial and Home Government. Mr. Baines' experience as a traveller, and his knowledge of navigation, boat-building, astronomical observation, and rough-surveying, besides his talent as an artist, made him a useful member of this well-managed expedition. In 1858 he was again sent out as an artist with Dr. Livingstone's unfortunate Zambesi expedition. But leaving this after a short stay he returned to the Cape, and joining an old companion, Mr. James Chapman, who was preparing to start on a trading and hunting expedition to the far interior, he agreed to accompany him in an attempt to explore the country from Walvisch Bay, on the West Coast, to the mouth of the Zambesi, *via* Lake N'Gami and the Victoria Falls. Part of the scheme was the construction of a copper boat, and its conveyance in sections across the desert to the head of the Zambesi navigation, where it was to be put together, and the whole river navigated thence to the Indian Ocean. This part of the plan failed, through unexpected sickness amongst the party and the hostility of the natives; but the Zambesi was reached, and partly surveyed, as recorded in Mr. Baines' book. The principal result of the journey, however, was the pictorial delineation of the colossal and picturesque cataract, discovered by Livingstone only six or seven years previously, and named by him "Victoria Falls." To reach this part of the river, Baines and his companion had to leave their cattle behind on the borders of the desert, owing to the prevalence of the *tsetse* fly, and walk on foot through the luxuriant and well-watered thickets that border the river valley. The peculiarity of this cataract consists in its not forming, like the Niagara, and other great falls, a straight chasm by the descent of the river from a higher to a lower level, but in the disappearance of the river through a transverse cleft across its bed, and its finding its way to the lower level through a series of similar clefts, lying in zigzag form across the elevated valley. The length of the chasm is about 2,000 yards, its depth 400 feet, and its width from 15 to 130 yards. The waters of a large river falling from so great a height create a cloud of spray, which ascends 1,200 feet above the chasm, and by its condensation irrigates the surrounding soil, and produces a luxuriance of vegetation unequalled on the African Continent. The falls were sketched in colours on the spot from every available position, a task of no small difficulty in the vicinity of the blinding spray. Some of the finished sketches of the falls were sent from Africa by Mr. Baines to the Royal Geographical Society, and have been for some time past exhibited in their rooms in Whitehall Place. Messrs. Day and Son, of Lincoln's Inn Fields, have also undertaken a publication of a selection from them in a series of chromo-lithographs. These sketches, as well as others which Mr. Baines has now brought with him, are vigorous portrayals of African landscape, and enable the stay-at-home reader of books of foreign travel to realize the peculiar scenery of this part of the world.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE *Conversazione* at the College of Surgeons, which we announced some time ago, took place on Wednesday evening last, and not for a long time has there been such a gathering of the professors of the healing art, and of all interested in anatomical and physiological studies. Fortunately, perhaps, for some, at all events, among the assembly, unfamiliar with dead men's bones, mummies not Egyptian, and a thousand things suggestive of very different ideas to surgeons and patients, the interest of the evening was by no means confined to the Museum. *Imprimis*, there was a perfect army of microscopes. Among the objects ex-

Speaking of the results he then obtained, Professor Wheatstone remarked nearly thirty years ago, "It is not too much to expect that, by proper combinations, the effects of a thermo-pile may be exalted to equal those of an ordinary voltaic pile." Three years since we were no nearer this end. Three years hence we trust it may be fully accomplished.

In the next number of the *Philosophical Magazine*, June, 1837, Professor Andrews published a paper on the thermo-electric currents developed between metals and fused salts. The experiments described in this paper, showed that an electrical current was always produced when two metals, at different temperatures (platina wires were generally used), were brought into contact with a fused salt capable of conducting electricity. The direction of the current was from the hotter metal through the fused salt to the colder metal. This current was much stronger than that from an ordinary thermo-electric pile, as it was said to be capable of decomposing water and other electrolytes with great facility. Although no spark was seen even when the current traversed a coil of wire surrounding a bar of iron, yet Professor Andrews states, by improving his apparatus, he had little doubt but that a spark might be obtained.

The present revival of interest in thermo-electricity will, we hope, prove more lasting and practical in its results than that which took place thirty years ago. After the appearance of Professor Wheatstone's paper, Mr. Watkins made some experiments on thermo-electric piles of various sizes, which were published in the *Philosophical Magazine* for September, 1837. Mr. Watkins used precisely the same arrangement as Wheatstone employed. He thus obtained vivid sparks, and by an electro-magnet lifted a weight of 98lbs., remarking upon this, "who knows but hereafter electro-magnetism may be employed as a prime mover, and that a thermo-pile may be the exciting cause." If thermo-batteries do not deteriorate by use, this is not so improbable, though the statement would be made with more caution now than then. Mr. Watkins worked well at this subject, for before he concluded his experiments he obtained brilliant sparks from thermo-piles ranging from 15 to 30 elements, excited by boiling water or ice at one end, whilst the other was in both cases at the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere; though not stated, a coil was, of course, employed in this experiment. In a short note communicated to the following number of the *Magazine* (Vol. 11, p. 398), Mr. Watkins states that with a single bismuth and antimony pair, only half an inch long, and .12 of an inch in diameter, the two ends being unequally heated, he obtained, with a Henry's flat ribbon coil, a very perceptible and brilliant spark, seen at the time by MM. De la Rive, Plateau, and others. The thermo-pile was also used by Mr. Watkins for showing all electro-magnetic phenomena; and in the *Philosophical Magazine*, Vol. 12, p. 541, he mentions that he decomposed water, by employing an interrupted current a long helix and a powerful thermo-battery, at the same time obtaining painful shocks from a secondary coil. In a later number of the *Magazine* (Vol. 14, p. 82) Mr. Watkins shows that indications of heat were obtained by resisting the passage of a current from eighteen bismuth and antimony pairs.

After this we do not know of any new fact being added to thermo-electrical science until the recent experiments we have already detailed. If the main difficulties in the way, the internal resistance of the thermo-electric battery and its possible deterioration by exposure to high temperatures, can be overcome, thermo-electricity will be destined to play a far more important part than it has hitherto done. Setting aside its economic value, which by itself is all-powerful, the great constancy of the current will be one of the chief arguments in its favour. Like windmills, thermo-electric batteries might be erected over the country, and entrap—finally converting into mechanical motion and thus into money—gleams of sunshine, which would be as wind to the sails of the mill. What stores of fabulous wealth are, as far as our earth is concerned, constantly wasted by the non-retention of the solar rays poured on the desert of Sahara. Nature here refuses to use her wonderful radiation net, for we cannot cover the desert sands with trees, and man is left alone to try his skill in retaining solar energy. Hitherto helpless, we need not be so much longer; and the force of a Sahara sun may be carried through wires to Cairo, and thence irrigate the desert, or possibly, if need be, it could pulsate under our trees, and be made to burn in Greenland.

hibited we may mention some contributed by Dr. Lockhart Clarke, consisting of injections of the cerebrum, and others, showing the structure and diseases of the nervous system. Among the apparatus exhibited by Messrs. Horne and Thornthwaite was a form of polariscope, which deservedly attracted much attention. The great advantage of this form (constructed after the plan originally introduced by M. Hoffmann) is that the complete system of rings surrounding both axes in a biaxial crystal can be viewed at the same time, even when these axes are inclined to one another at an angle of fifty or even sixty degrees. Moreover, sections of crystals showing little or no evidence of the system of rings when examined by the ordinary polariscope shows rings and colours of surpassing brilliancy when viewed by this new instrument. Nor must we forget to mention Dr. Cobbold's collection of Entozoa, those deadliest of miners, which, travelling at the rate of some three inches an hour from our food, some few minutes after we have relished it, unless they are met by skillful counterminers, soon lay us as low as the poor fellow whose muscle pointed the story. In the museum itself, the statue of Hunter, that giant in intellect, who has fittingly supplanted the giant in stature, and the new arrangements of the different bases of the vertebrate structure, which we have already described in THE READER, attracted chief attention. The arrangement of every part of the vast collection—which, thanks to the care and skill of Mr. Flower, has reached a point approaching perfection—was a subject of general congratulation.

MM. GERVAIS and Alphonse Milne-Edwards have been appointed to the professorships of anatomy and zoology, respectively, at the Paris Faculty of Sciences.

THE Zoological Society has, during the past week, received from Paris, in exchange for one of their rhinoceroses, a young African elephant, which will doubtless prove a great acquisition to the gardens.

THE nature of the light emitted by burning magnesium has been recently investigated by Professor Schrötter, and his experiments published in a communication to the Vienna Academy of Sciences. M. Schrötter has obtained some important results, of which the most interesting are as follows: The magnesium light promptly and powerfully produces fluorescent as well as photographic effects. This light contains an extraordinary quantity of ultra-violet rays, the spectrum of which is at least six times as long as that of the luminous portion. Crystallized platino-cyanide of barium, finely powdered or made into a paste with gum, so that it can be fixed on paper, gives a powerful fluorescence when exposed to this light. All substances which become luminous by insolation acquire this property in the highest degree by a few seconds' exposure to burning magnesium, whilst with the sun it takes from five to ten minutes to produce the same effect. The light re-emitted by these bodies has no photographic power, the absorbed chemical rays being degraded to purely luminous ones. It is further stated that if a piece of burning magnesium wire is brought near to the sides of a white glass cylinder, filled with equal parts of hydrogen and chlorine gases, drops of hydrochloric acid will be seen to condense on the portion of the cylinder nearest the wire. If now a second piece of the wire is burnt on the opposite side of the glass, an explosion takes place almost instantaneously. The glass used must, we imagine, be thin as well as colourless. Trying a similar experiment some time since, we found that no explosion took place when two pieces of wire were burnt together close to one side of a thick glass vessel containing the mixed gases.

DRIED flowers, in their natural colours, have for some time past appeared for sale in the shops; the mode in which the operation is effected is thus stated in the *Journal of the Society of Arts*: "A vessel, with a moveable cover, is provided, and having removed the cover from it, a piece of metallic gauze of moderate fineness is fixed over it, and the cover replaced. A quantity of sand is then taken sufficient to fill the vessel, and passed through a sieve into an iron pot, where it is heated, with the addition of a small quantity of stearine, carefully stirred, so as to thoroughly mix the ingredients. The quantity of stearine to be added is at the rate of half a pound to one hundred pounds of sand. Care must be taken not to add too much, as it would sink to the bottom and injure the flowers. The vessel, with its cover on, and the gauze beneath it, is then turned upside down, and the bottom being removed, the flowers to be operated upon are carefully placed on the gauze and the sand

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gently poured in, so as to cover the flowers entirely, the leaves being thus prevented from touching each other. The vessel is then put in a hot place, such, for instance, as the top of a baker's oven, where it is left for forty-eight hours. The flowers thus become dried, and they retain their natural colours. The vessel still remaining bottom upwards, the lid is taken off, and the sand runs away through the gauze, leaving the flowers uninjured."

PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—June 12.—MM. H. Saint-Claire Deville and L. Troost gave the result of their "Critical Researches on the Constitution of the Compounds of Niobium." The authors believing with M. Marignac, that Rose's hypochloride of niobium and the hypofluonibates contain oxygen, have experimentally investigated this point, and draw the following conclusions from their analyses: 1. Rose's hypochloride of niobium should be considered as an oxychloride. 2. All the extraordinary properties of niobium come under a common law. The oxychloride of niobium is a body which crystallizes in large uncoloured silky tufts. Its vapour density, from the mean of two experiments, the authors found to be 7.88.—M. Stan Meunier presented a second note on the "Solution of some Metallic Oxides in Fused Caustic Alkalies." In a former memoir the author had shown the oxides of mercury, cadmium and bismuth, are soluble in melted potash and soda, and that their solutions correspond to definite compounds. The solution of binoxide of mercury in potash the author has in this memoir more especially examined. The resulting compound is a violet-coloured body, which was found to have a composition represented by the formula $KO, 2 HgO$. The action of alkalies upon the oxides of the earths was also investigated. Magnesia, baryta, strontia, and lime were readily dissolved in fused potash and soda, but rather more freely in the former. In each case a definite combination was believed to have taken place. These solutions of the earths appeared to possess powerful oxidizing properties, as they dissolve many of the metals and raise them to a high state of oxidation. The author explains this phenomena by attributing it to peroxide of potassium or sodium present in the solution.—An extract was read from the fourth chapter of M. Persoz's second memoir "On the Molecular State of Bodies." This part was devoted to an investigation of the laws relating to the composition of salts.

MM. Maréchal and Tessié du Motay presented some specimens of vitrified photographs obtained by a process they describe, and which is applicable, they state, to the production of photographs on crystal, glass, lava, porcelain, &c. The process consists of ten operations, which are detailed in their memoir. The object of this vitrified method is to preserve photographic pictures for an indefinite time, the image being burnt into the plate by exposure to a red heat.—M. Corenwinder sent a paper "On an Analysis of the Fucus Seaweed (*Sargassum bacciferum*)." The author has sought indirectly to prove the existence of phosphorus in the ocean by an analysis of seaweeds gathered far from the shore. His results show that the Fucus seaweed contains 1.026 per cent. of phosphoric acid, which could only have been derived from the sea.—M. Carlevaris communicated a note "On a New Steady White Light." This is a substitution of a spongy oxide of magnesium for the lime in the oxyhydrogen flame. (Further information concerning this light was given last week in our Scientific Notes.)

A memoir was presented by M. Allégret "On the Secular Inequalities in the Moon's Mean Motion." The author remarks, in conclusion, that the displacement of the ecliptic in space gives rise to secular inequalities, proportional to the cube of the time, which affect the longitude of the node and perigee of the lunar orbit.—Another paper was contributed by M. Allégret "On the Theory of the Moon," in which, by reference to the variation of the ecliptic, he gives a simpler demonstration of this theory than that stated by Laplace, and by it proves that the mean inclination of the lunar and terrestrial orbits is always constant.—A report was given of a memoir by M. Tresca, entitled "The Flowing of Solid Bodies." This paper contains the result of numerous experiments on the effects of great pressure in compressing and expelling ductile or pulverulent substances, enclosed in a rigid cylindrical envelope,

pierced at its base with a concentric orifice of varying size.—A note "On the Natural History of the Cray-fish" was communicated by M. Soubeiran.—"On the Curative Treatment of Pulmonary Phthisis" was the subject of a note by M. Fuster. We have given elsewhere the method of treatment employed by the author.

BERLIN.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—April 6.—M. Riedel read a paper "On the Early Revenues of the State of Brandenburg, and their Appropriation." A communication was read from Dr. H. Schwarz, "On the Minimum Surface, the Boundary of which is given as an Oblique Quadrangle, formed by Four Edges of a regular Tetrahedron." A paper was communicated by Dr. R. Weber, on "Compounds of Acichloride of Selenium with Metallic Chlorides," describing the formation of double compounds with perchloride of tin, perchloride of titanium, and pentachloride of antimony.

April 24.—Professor Poggendorff read a description of a "New Arrangement of the Mercurial Air-Pump," and also a "Preliminary Note on the Influence of some still undiscovered Circumstances upon the Phenomena of the Electrical Discharge." Professor Poggendorff likewise exhibited and explained an electrical apparatus, invented by M. Holtz, of Berlin. A Memoir was read from Professor Lipschitz, "On the Asymptotic Laws of Certain Kinds of Theoretical Functions of Numbers."

April 27.—Professor Braun communicated a long and elaborate paper "On the Genus *Selaginella*," in which he describes thirty-two species of that interesting group of plants; and a paper was read from Dr. Ulrich Köhler, "On a newly-discovered Fragment of the so-called Tritrite-Lists."

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.—June 15.—Mr. George Benthall, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

Mr. J. S. Baly and the Rev. William Colenso were elected Fellows.

Mr. Syme exhibited a plant, in flower, of the rare *Cephalanthera Rubra*, found by Mr. G. S. Wintle, in beech woods, in Gloucestershire.

Mr. Redhead exhibited a living plant of *Cystopteris crenata*, from Gulbrandsdal, in Norway.

The following papers were read:—

1. "Descriptions of Fifty-two New Species of *Phasmida*, from the collection of Mr. W. W. Saunders, with Remarks on the Family," by Mr. H. W. Bates, Secretary Royal Geographical Society.

2. "On Two New Tropical African Genera of *Anonaceae*," by Professor Oliver, F.R.S.

3. "Notes on a Collection of *Algae* procured in Cumberland Sound, by Mr. James Taylor; and Remarks on Arctic Species in General," by George Dickie, M.D.

4. "Supplementary Observations on the *Sphaeria* of the Hookerian Herbarium," by Mr. Frederick Currey, F.R.S.

5. "On the Asymmetry of the *Pleuronectidae*, as elucidated by an Examination of the Skeleton in the Turbot, Halibut, and Plaice," by Ramsay H. Traquair, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—June 14.—Mr. J. R. Planché, Rouge Croix, V.-P., in the chair. Mr. R. H. Wood, Crumpton, near Manchester, was elected an associate.

Lord Baston exhibited miniatures of Charles I. and James, Duke of Monmouth, formerly in the possession of Cardinal York. Mr. George Vere Irving produced rubbings of the chair of Cardinal Beaton, which has recently passed into the hands of Mr. Sim, a member of the Association.

Mr. J. T. Irvine sent a coloured drawing of the Roman pavement found at Bath in 1864; also sketches of further architectural remains from the church of Bradford-on-Avon, consisting of portions of Saxon crosses richly sculptured, with interlaced strop work and bases and capitals of Norman columns. Also a sepulchral slab of the 14th century and a sketch of the north aisle of the church, with 13th-century work.

The Rev. Mr. Simpson exhibited a series of gally tiles, and promised some explanatory notes for a future meeting.

Mr. Cumming read some notes on ancient spear-heads of bone, with illustrations from his own collection and those of Mr. Gunston and the Rev. Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Warren, of Ixworth, exhibited eight fine

specimens of flint celts obtained in Suffolk, varying greatly in size and in weight.

The Rev. Mr. Kell exhibited a portion of a tile found at Clausentum, near Southampton, and presented to him twenty years since. The upper surface was covered with glaze, the pattern being Moorish, and formed of crescents, though the workmanship is probably Dutch.

An elaborate paper by Mr. F. J. Baigent, of Winchester, was read, detailing the various wall paintings found during the restorations of the Hospital of St. Cross. Upwards of thirty beautiful drawings illustrated this communication, which will be published by the Association.

This occupied the remainder of the evening, when the chairman adjourned the society to November next, reminding the members of the congress to be held at Durham in August, and congratulated the Association upon the great number of papers and exhibitions produced during the past session.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN SOCIETY.—June 13.—Dr. John Lee in the chair. The Chairman exhibited two interesting rolls of the book of Esther, after which a paper on the "Site and Antiquity of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre" was read by the Rev. John Mills. Mr. Mills at the outset wished it to be understood that his object was neither to prove or disprove the identity of the sepulchre in this church with the true tomb of our Saviour, but only to prove that the present church stands upon the same site as the one erected by Constantine. Tracing the history of the churches built on the traditional site of the sepulchre from the time of Constantine, as given in the works of Eusebius, the Pilgrim of Bordeaux, Arculfus, and others, downwards to modern times, he conclusively showed that the universal testimony of both historical and pilgrim writers recognized but one site—i.e., the one occupied by the present church. He then successively combated the principal objections raised by Mr. Ferguson in his ingenious work on this question. Quoting from Eusebius the works attributed to Constantine, Mr. Mills explained that the Emperor built no church over the cave, he simply adorned it. He erected a Basilica, or Royal church, near to the cave, and connected therewith by a court. These he further established, from the authorities already quoted, to have been situated on Zion—namely, the western, or city mount, and not on the eastern, or Temple hill, where Mr. Ferguson would have them be. After discussing several minor objections, the author concluded a very clear and succinct paper on this vexed but interesting question, when some further remarks were made by Messrs. Sharpe, Bonomi, and Smith, and the next meeting of the society was adjourned to the 14th November.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, JULY 3.

ENTOMOLOGICAL, at 7.—12 Bedford Row.
ASIATIC, at 8.30.—5 New Burlington Street.

TUESDAY, JULY 4.

ETHNOLOGICAL, at 8.—4 St. Martin's Place. 1. "Craniology and Phenology in Relation to Ethnology," Dr. Donovan. 2. "Photographs from Central America," Communicated by Edward B. Tylor. 3. "On Visible Speech," Professor Bell.

FRIDAY, JULY 7.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 4.—1 Burlington Gardens.

SATURDAY, JULY 8.

ROYAL BOTANIC, at 3.45.—Inner Circle, Regent's Park.

ART.

CHURCH'S NEW PICTURES OF CHIMBORAZO AND COTOPAXI.

AMERICAN painters are at length beginning to assert their claims to a recognized place among European artists. Power, Crawford, and Storey have each made a great reputation as sculptors, working in Roman and Florentine studios, under the influence of a traditional system founded upon the study of Greek art. The Slave Girl, the monument of Washington, the Sybil, and the Cleopatra, are essentially European in thought and treatment; and no American sculptor has yet appeared to reflect the life of his country, or to embody the noble episodes of its history. They share the slavish adherence of European sculptors to classical types, which, full of meaning as they were for ancient Greeks, are dead and unmeaning to modern Christians, who look with profound indifference upon bastard imitations of Greek and Roman masterpieces. Still, it is in sculpture that American artists have hitherto gained renown in Europe. No great figure painter has yet appeared among

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them. West, Copley, and Leslie were, we believe, born Americans; but they were purely English painters; and at the present time American art in this department is inadequately represented by the admirable little *genre* pictures of Mr. Boughton, who, as a pupil and disciple of Edouard Frere, cares rather to illustrate the life of the French peasantry than to seek for subjects among his own people. In landscape painting, American painters have obeyed a nobler instinct, and, like true thinking men, they have not been misled into the error of despising the noble scenery of their own continent, but have appropriated it as their own most proper field of work. Cropsey, Mignot, and Church, by boldly flinging aside the European criticism which pool-pooled American scenery as devoid of historical interest and therefore unworthy of pictorial representation, have not only proved that it has an inherent interest which powerfully affects the mind, but they have done much towards establishing a new and original school of landscape painting. Mignot has earned a high reputation, by the exhibition of pictures of tropical scenery in the exhibitions of the Royal Academy and the British Institution; Cropsey is well known by his faithful sketches and pictures of the scenery in the Northern States of the Union; and both these painters are well known to a large circle of friends in England, where they have, from time to time, been residing. Church, a more daring artist than either, has, we believe, never visited Europe; but he has penetrated into the heart of the Andes, crossed the Cordilleras, visited Cotopaxi, and followed the icebergs on the coast of Labrador; while, in all his undertakings, he has displayed a wonderful amount of energy and patience, an unconquerable spirit, and a supreme love of his art.

The last work exhibited by this remarkable painter was a picture of the icebergs off the coast of Labrador; it excited great interest at the time, and was enthusiastically commended as a truthful representation by those who were best acquainted with the scenery of that wonderful region. The two pictures now on view in the Haymarket were painted in New York, from studies made by the artist in 1857, when on an expedition among the mountains that form the chain of the Andes. For the first time we have presented to us two pictures that we may probably receive as accurate representations of two of the most interesting points of the chain, Chimborazo and Cotopaxi. Chimborazo is shown as it is seen from the river Guayaquil, from which it is distant about a hundred miles. The hills in the middle distance, just below the snow line of the Andes, are the Cordilleras, and the foreground represents the rich and wide valley traversed by the Guayaquil. The other picture is taken from a spot some fifty miles distant from the base of the cone of Cotopaxi at a time of continuous, though not violent, eruption. The rising sun is partially obscured by the dense column of smoke emitted from the crater, and which is carried off in an oblique direction by the wind. The adjacent scenery is that of the high level of the mountain tops; the foreground is composed of reddish limestone rocks, friable owing to the subterranean heat of the soil, their irregular surface being partially covered with a thin vegetation, which during the rainy season presents the vivid emerald of the tropics. The lake and its outlet of cascades probably originated in an eruption, by which a sudden chasm became filled with water, which streams over its rocky boundary, and along the declivity which forms the immediate foreground of the picture. This work is described by the artist as a representation of scenery typical of that portion of the Andes which is modified in appearance by volcanic agencies; while the "Chimborazo" is an attempt to render justice to the richness and vigour of vegetation which characterize the broad tropical valleys of Ecuador.

These pictures are interesting chiefly because they set before us in minute detail the scenery of a part of the world of which we know very little more than we can derive from written description; but they are also remarkable as the works of a painter far removed from the influences of direct European training—of one who is an earnest student of nature, and at the same time shows that he has acquired no mean knowledge of art. Far less cultivated than Mignot, and upon the whole not so good a painter, his range is wider and his treatment more interesting. He has been favourably compared with Turner by his greatest admirers; but the comparison is altogether an unfair one, and injurious to his reputation. His faculty is of a different kind; Turner grasped his subject as a whole, Church gathers

it up in parts. Chimborazo is represented at a distance of a hundred miles, yet its summit is raised above the natural horizon marked by the inclination of the lake in the foreground, to an altitude of a hundred miles at least. An error of this kind can only arise from a habit of insisting upon details, and looking at a grand subject in parts. The "Cotopaxi" is free from any striking fault of this kind, and it is altogether a better work of art. The effect of sunrise is beautifully suggested by the clear sky, where it is unobscured by the smoke of the volcano, and by the warm light that streams over the surface of the rocks; and in both pictures we are made to feel that we stand on unknown and sublime heights and in the midst of the grandest scenery of the tropics. The painter has earned a greater title to distinction by the production of these pictures, than he would probably have ever acquired by a course of study in Paris or London, which might have fettered his energy, and made him at best a conventional landscape painter.

MUSIC.

THE HANDEL FESTIVAL.

BY the time these lines are in print, this great musical pageant will be over. The fifty or the seventy thousand spectators of its wonders will have settled, each for himself or herself, whether it was a success or a failure, satisfying or non-satisfying, a glory or a disappointment. Where a great public is its own witness, where the spectators are themselves the spectacle, there is less need for dilating on the outside aspects of such a gathering; and the larger public, which cannot, or does not, assist at the celebration, has at its service plenty of skilled pens, which will paint, as vividly as word-picturing can, the many-coloured splendours of the scene. It will be more to our purpose to treat the Festival in its soberer aspects, which are mainly two. These great gatherings are experiments on a vast scale, illustrating practical problems of musical execution. They also profess to be solemnities in honour of a great genius. In both regards there is much to be said of them.

First, as to the actual musical effect of a chorus of three thousand voices and a band of some hundreds of instruments, why is it that the listener's first impression is always one of disappointment? No one, probably, hears this mighty mass of sound produces for the first time without thinking, "Well, that is a very small sound for such a multitude to make; it is not much more than one hears from an ordinary chorus of a tenth of the size." After all that has been talked and written on the matter, any one who went about among the audiences of the past week might see that this is still the feeling of the majority. It is indeed the fact that the increase of effect bears a quite insignificant proportion to the increase of means. But we might have been spared our disappointment if we had sufficiently considered beforehand the physical conditions of the matter. The case is a curious instance of how first rough expectations are completely upset by facts. It was a common notion that a gigantic chorus would be difficult to manage. It turns out that, without any disparagement to Mr. Costa, whose masterly skill has never been more conspicuous than during this week, the more singers there are, the more certain they are to sing right and sing together. It was thought that the noise would be overwhelming. It turns out that no amount of voice-tone can be overwhelming—that the effect is not loudness, but sweetness of tone. This great choir produces without doubt the *sweetest* sound ever heard from a number of human throats. The effect of sweetness or richness is not, indeed, to be matched with that of an ordinary choir heard in the nave of a cathedral, but this latter effect is mainly due to the sound-conditions of the building. This tone of the Festival choir is *intrinsically* lovely, when heard at a proper distance, by virtue, apparently, of the completeness of the mixture produced by such enormous numbers. The individualities of separate voices become utterly merged in the mass, little roughnesses disappear, the sense of personal effort vanishes, and nothing falls on the ear but a stream of pure tone. As to the reason of the non-loudness, that becomes clear enough on a little consideration. Loudness and softness are names for sensations of the human tympanum, and there is no reason why the sensibility of a membrane should vary exactly in the same degree as the amount of the cause producing the sensation. Illustrations of this in the case

of other senses—sight, for instance—are as familiar enough. If we light twenty gas-burners in an ordinary drawing-room, it becomes desperately bright; but if we light another twenty, we do not make it lighter, the eyes having already as much sensation of brightness as they can take in. In an eclipse of the sun, the landscape does not become perceptibly darker till almost the last line of the sun's disk is obscured, showing how little the sensation of light is a measure of the amount of its cause. So if twenty voices are singing in a room, twenty more of equal power will make the music louder, but not twice as loud. What the "form of the function" is which expresses the true law of variation, is a problem which the mathematicians have yet to solve, or perhaps we may at once say it is insoluble, as the question is one more of physiology than mathematics. But if the effect of increasing the amount of sound were exactly ascertained, there would still remain untouched the point which most complicates this problem in practice—namely, the effect produced by *extending the space* covered by the choir. Human voices are weak instruments, and human arms and shoulders occupy considerable space. Every addition to the choir necessarily involves an addition to the size of the "auditorium;" that removes a portion of the audience to a still greater distance, and thus the effect of increased force is neutralized. Practically, no doubt, the limit of size prescribed by these conditions only (for there are others pointing to the same result) has already been reached, if not passed, at the Crystal Palace. Vast numbers in the audience, notwithstanding all the acoustic improvements of which so much is said, fail to hear great portions, not of the solos only, but of the choruses. The carrying power of voice-tone is not increased, apparently, by increasing its mass: a "pianissimo" of a thousand voices does not travel so far as a single voice singing with moderate force. At the same time, the listeners sitting very near the Sydenham orchestra are nearly overpowered by the noise of the instruments required to support and balance the voice-tone. Practically, all this shows that fresh additions to the chorus will not improve it: whatever human ingenuity can do, it cannot get rid of space. Every recruit to the vocal army will be more hindrance than use. The case reminds us of the story of Cortez and his mailed Spaniards cutting their way through the countless hosts of Montezuma. It reads at first sight as a great miracle that some couple of hundred men should hold at bay a hundred thousand; but the mystery disappears when one considers that in effect the two hundred had only to fight the fraction of the hundred thousand which immediately surrounded them: the rest might just as well have been away. So a listener close to fifty thousand singers would hear no more, probably, than if there were only ten thousand, for he could only hear those whose voices could get at him. So again, if one were to try to warm a huge church with a single fire at one end, the result would be analogous to that produced by the Sydenham chorus. Either the people sitting near the blaze would be roasted, or those at the other end of the building would be perishing with cold. Some sitting midway would feel, probably, a satisfactory degree of genial warmth; and you would have the same variety of opinion as to the effect of the fire that we now hear as to that of the Crystal Palace chorus; every hearer of which tells you a different story, according to the "block" he sits in. But all this takes no account of the increased difficulty of managing and organizing large numbers, or of the curious effects caused by the different times at which sounds from points at different distances reach the ear of a listener. This last difficulty, however, though theoretically insuperable, has been, we must admit, very considerably mitigated at Sydenham by the skilful arrangement of the various sections of the choir. After trying various positions, where, if anywhere, the discrepancy would be detected, we may safely declare that it is practically no longer felt. This is apparently due to the fact that the several voice parts are arranged in sections, radiating from the band (which occupies the centre of the half-circle) to the circumference of the orchestra. By this means the interval which must elapse between the hearing of, say, the nearest soprano and the farthest soprano is filled up by the consecutive arrivals of the corresponding notes sung by all the voices on the line connecting the advanced and the rear-guard, and the possibility of a sharp, decisive discrepancy in the times of arrival of tones sung by different kinds of voices is thus avoided, no one section of the choir being farther removed from the nearest

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edge of the other sections than by the comparatively trifling space occupied by the instrumentalists. The ordinary method of arranging a choir—soprano and alto in front, tenor and basses respectively behind them—would give rise, as has been practically demonstrated on former occasions, to an alarming confusion of "beats." The parts would frequently follow at a sound interval corresponding to 150 feet, or one-sixth of a second, a very appreciable portion of a "bar" of ordinary music.

As much cannot be said as to the removal of the internal difficulties attendant on monster choirs. These remain untouched. Mr. Costa is still obliged to sprinkle the ranks of his vocalists with players of brazen instruments—to keep them, we suppose, in time, or to prompt them in difficult passages. Then, to give additional force to the accompaniment, he employs an intolerable amount of brass. We shall never forget the brutal sound—no other epithet can sufficiently describe its coarseness—produced by a mass of trombones or ophicleids, or both, playing the bass to the grand fugue, "We worship God," on Wednesday. And yet it is probably a practical necessity to make these hideous additions to the score. The time of the choir is its great difficulty. For exactness in the notes a multitude has an advantage over a few; for as all but the very worst singers are more likely to sing right than wrong, every addition diminishes in a rapidly increasing ratio the chance of wrong notes being audible, and practically in such a large choir mistakes of this kind, in music of not extraordinary difficulty, may be said to be impossible. For the same reasons, the singing is, and must be, remarkably steady, the tendency of every man to sing with his neighbour being similarly increased; but the steadiness is very often—generally indeed—a steady drag upon the rhythm intended by the conductor, and this tendency Mr. Costa seems to have no way of combating but by putting on brass and organ *ad libitum*, to do the steam-tug duty of pulling the chorus along. Often, notwithstanding these aids, he is obliged to yield to the ponderous step which basses and tenors, the chief offenders, will persist in adopting, in defiance of the sweep of his baton. Sometimes, however, the fault is the other way. In a familiar or exciting passage, a part will occasionally "run away with" the time. The basses did this in the fugue in "Oh, Father, whose Almighty power," and Mr. Costa showed his generalship by discreetly yielding the point. This time difficulty seems to us, we confess, well nigh insuperable. The only obvious remedy—frequent rehearsals—is out of the question with such giant choirs. It is one of the things which make one ask, "Is the result worth the trouble and the cost?" and when we say cost, we don't so much mean the vast money outlay, as the cost of so much adaptation, re-scoring, nineteenth century orchestralizing, and general tinkering of the mighty works of genius which we profess to think so sacred. Candidly, we think a typical performance of Handel's masterpieces would be a better way of honouring him and his works than these sensational spectacles. Performances so full of disproportions and contradictions cannot be called typical. With all their partial grandeur, no one can pretend to say that they represent Handel in his entirety. Of their significance as popular celebrations of a great man, and their bearing on the progress of music, we may say more when we have heard this present series to its end. But not to be ungrateful, let us at once admit that the musical enjoyment to be got from such performances, accepting their imperfections as inevitable, is great. Merely for the sake of its grand tone, no matter what music were to be sung, it would be worth going to Sydenham to hear this chorus. The freshness and richness of its sound is a wonder of wonders. The merit it is impossible to exaggerate, and so long as there are people to be found who will take the trouble to produce what is so beautiful, we needs must go and enjoy it, whatever we may think as to many of the incidents of the proceeding, or as to the genuineness of its avowed purpose.

MUSICAL NOTES.

MR. DEACON gave the last of his series of classical morning concerts on Thursday, the 22nd inst., at the Queen's Concert Rooms. Mr. Deacon is a musician and a pianist who has for some time been steadily gaining ground in the good opinion of the musical public, and it is to be regretted that so judicious and thorough a player of classical music should not oftener be heard.

HERR JOACHIM has all but played his last in London for this season. On Tuesday last he led Beethoven's Quintet in C and Mozart's Quartet in D, at the Musical Union. Between these he played a little piece by Schumann, an "Abendlied," slow, soft, and solemn, with a power which held his audience spell-bound. This prince of fiddlers is coming back to us, we understand, in the winter. He will play once more before leaving England at the "Director's benefit night of the Popular Concerts," Monday next. Mr. Ella exhibited, by the way, at this Matinee, an interesting portrait of Mozart, which appears to be a genuine original, and which he is going to present to the Union Institute.

A MUSICAL celebration of a singular kind, a *fête* on the inauguration of a statue to Jenner, of vaccination memory, is to be held at Boulogne next month. M. Elwart has written a choral piece for the occasion, called "A Hymn to Beauty," to be sung by the Orphéonists of the place.

SIGNOR GIUGLINI'S malady, it is understood, is insanity of a kind which leaves little or no hope of his recovery. A concert for his benefit is to be given this afternoon at the Hanover-square Rooms, at which Madame Grisi is announced to sing.

MESSRS. EWER announce a sestet by Gade, and a quartet by Brahms, as among the pieces to be played at their Library Concert this year, which is to be on Thursday, at the Hanover-square Rooms.

THE Musical Society of London had its last concert for the season on Wednesday evening. Mr. Salaman, it seems, is about to resign his post of secretary. If this is on account, as it may well be, of the laborious nature of the post, it is another instance of the mistake of making such offices honorary.

SOME of the chamber music of Ferdinand Ries has been making its appearance at recent concerts. At that given a week or two ago by Herr Louis Ries, the well-known member of our leading quartet parties, who is, we believe, a nephew of Beethoven's pupil and biographer, a sestet of the elder Ries was played, and the Beethoven Quartet Society gave one of his quartets at their last concert. The most noticeable piece at Herr Ries' concert was Schumann's Pianoforte Trio in D minor, a work which we shall be glad to hear again as soon as may be. Mr. Franklin Taylor, who is becoming known as an able player of the highest class of music, took the piano part.

MUSIC, it seems, has been sadly demoralizing the "Evangelical" clergy. We might have fancied the following extract, but for our finding it in a sober religious journal, to be a squib thrown by the "attitudinarian" at the "platitudinarian" party. In a paper read before a recent clerical congress, Mr. Hugh Stowell, an honorary canon of Chester, took occasion to say, in all faithfulness, that many of the Evangelical clergy permitted themselves indulgences which would not "have been attempted some twenty years ago." "Many went to see that singular man, Mr. Sothorn, while others were bewitched into attending concerts to hear Jenny Lind." Poor Madame Goldschmidt!

MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

JULY 3 to JULY 8.

MONDAY.—Last Popular Concert (Director's Benefit), St. James's Hall.
Mr. R. Blagrove's Last Concertina Concert, Beethoven Rooms, 8 p.m.
Beethoven Society's Matinée, Hanover Square Rooms.
Mdlle. Florence Lancia's Matinée, 52 Eaton Square.
TUESDAY.—Eighth and Last Matinée of Musical Union.
WEDNESDAY.—Mdlle. Adeline Patti's Morning Concert, St. James's Hall.
THURSDAY.—Messrs. Ewer's Chamber Music Concert, Hanover Square Rooms, 3 p.m.
OPERAS.—Covent Garden, "Barbière," "Favorita," &c.
Her Majesty's, "Sonnambula," &c.

THE DRAMA.

A DRAMATIC CRITIC.

A CONTROVERSY is generally but a wearisome affair to all except the disputants. We must be excused therefore from replying at any great length to the remarks of "L." in the *Pall Mall Gazette* upon our dramatic article of last week. In that article, as may be remembered, some observations were made upon a critical essay by "L.," in which the writer had seriously maintained that if the account in "Tom Jones," of the effect produced on Partridge by Garrick's

Hamlet, was to be taken as a tribute of admiration from Fielding to Garrick, the latter misunderstood the whole theory of acting, and the former admired precisely what he ought to have condemned. It was submitted by us that Garrick and Fielding were perhaps right, and "L." wrong, and we even went so far as to describe some of "L.'s" remarks as specimens of "the nonsense which an exceedingly clever man may write about an art with which he has no real sympathy, to which he has given no serious thought." To this, "L." now indignantly makes answer that he has real sympathy with dramatic art, and has given it serious thought; and as for nonsense, he says, "no one should know better than my critic how a man may set down nonsense, and believe it to be sense." To which somewhat Hibernian *tu quoque* it can only be replied, that a man who believes what he writes to be sense, but knows it to be nonsense, must present an interesting psychological problem. With regard, however, to this same gross charge of writing "nonsense," so absurdly made against "L.," we can only call attention once more to the views which he has brought forward. He deliberately maintained in a critical essay on dramatic art, that it was Fielding's intention in the well-known description of Partridge's visit to the play, to represent Garrick, in "Hamlet," as behaving in the presence of the ghost in the same manner as a clod who fancied that he really saw a ghost would behave; the assumption resting on what Partridge is made to say of Garrick, "I am sure if I had seen a ghost, I should have looked in the very same manner and done just as he did." This was what "L." advanced—apparently in earnest—his object being to correct Fielding's error, and, as he now says, "to discriminate between the nature of *Hamlet* and the nature of Partridge."

Now, is it necessary to answer this? Is it possible to argue seriously with a writer who thinks that the author of "Tom Jones" could not discriminate between the nature of *Hamlet* and the nature of Partridge? Was the "critic" who called such remarks as these nonsense, thereby showing the "confidence some men have in writing upon subjects they do not understand?" We did, indeed, attempt to point out the meaning which would be given to Fielding's criticism by people who were not seeking a paradox; but as "L." does not reply to these observations, we presume that he considers them to have been superfluous—and so they were.

In another portion of "L.'s" essay, as may be remembered, he described in a very absolute manner what the actor's art should be, and amongst other rules laid down that a performer "may use natural expressions, but he must sublimate them." We ventured to ask whether this sounding phrase had any meaning in particular, and "L." answers, "I will not insult him (the critic) by supposing that it is the word which puzzles him, or that he does not understand Dryden singing:—

As his actions rose, so raise they still their vein
In words whose weight best suits a sublimated strain

The courtesy is misplaced, for we fear that the critic will elect to be insulted, and will not "understand Dryden singing" lines which were written not by Dryden, but by Michael Drayton. The error, which is perhaps due to the printer, apart, it may surely be urged that to speak of a sublimated strain is intelligible, but that to speak of a sublimated natural expression is not.

We do not propose to discuss the other matters alluded to by "L.," although some of them are of considerable interest. When we cited Kean as an example of natural acting, we referred to an anecdote which, if true, proves that Kean was sometimes so natural as to deceive a fellow-performer. With regard to the manner of eminent living actors, there does not seem to be much use in making assertions on one side and counter-assertions on the other; and an attempt to describe what natural acting is, in the poetic drama, and in the drama which represents every-day life, is too large and difficult an undertaking to be entered on at present. Our object last week was to show that "L." had spoken with ill-founded contempt of a great writer and of a great actor, and nothing which he now advances seems to show we were mistaken in speaking lightly of the critical canons on which his opinion was based.

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